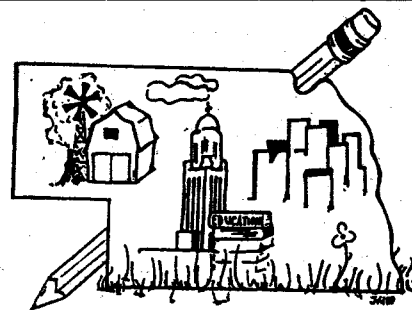


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 6, No. 4, April 4, 1991



Meatpackers Four Times as Likely to Get Hurt

ConAgra-Owned Plant Has Twice Rate of Injury

by Frances Mendenhall

Four unnamed Monfort workers were interviewed for this article. Their names are being withheld either because they still work at the plant or because they are in the process of getting settlements for injuries.

While the media's attention was focused on the atrocities of Saddam Hussein, workplace hazards in a Grand Island beef packing plant owned by ConAgra were causing ongoing injury. Two deaths have been documented at the Monfort plant, the most recent October 1 last year.

Richard Scala, 44, died from injuries sustained when he was servicing a hide fleshing machine. Scala was inside the machine when it was accidentally turned on. The incident triggered a 10-week investigation by OSHA leading to \$1.09 million in suggested penalties. (See article below.) Those citations which were called "willful" earned a higher fine, tenfold higher. They are also subject to criminal prosecution by the county attorney. Eighteen months before, another death had ushered in an investigation and other citations.

On April 6, 1989, Lyle Hill was doing maintenance work on a roller conveyor that was not secured from unexpected start-up. Hill was crushed to death. OSHA fined Monfort \$1,000 for that incident.

On June 14, 1989 Paul Salpas lost most of his right hand in an incident involving the same hide deflesher that was later to take Richard Scala's life.

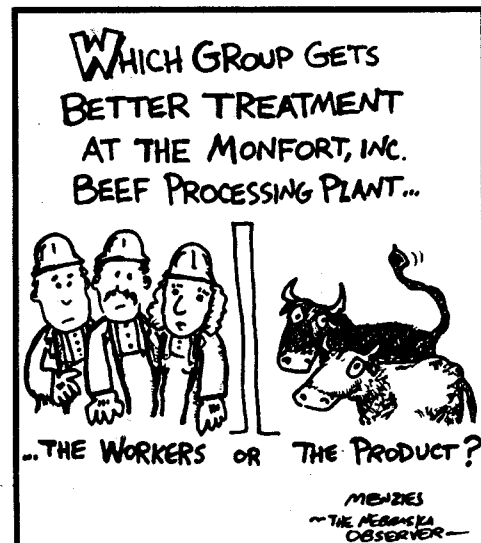
Terry Fishell also lost a hand. He was working on a grinder that clogged frequently, but that supposedly had a safety mechanism that would stop the grinder when the lid was up. It didn't, and Fishell now has only six inches of his lower arm below the elbow.

Other stories abound. A shattered ankle from slipping on a floor that is often wet or strewn with pieces of fat. An injury from a fall from a wobbly ladder. Another story of a "near miss" illustrates the need — still undressed — for the buddy system for maintenance workers. Six months to a year ago a worker in rendering climbed into a cooker to clean it. Somebody shut the door, locking him in. Luckily he was able to attract attention by pounding; the machine was scheduled for use about five minutes later. There are also numerous stories of repetitive motion injuries.

According to Ben Bare, Omaha area OSHA

director, the rate of injury industry-wide is 4.2 per hundred per year. In meat packing the rate is 15.8 per hundred per year. At the Monfort plant it is 33.4 per hundred per year. Pam Nelson, union organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Grand Island and former Monfort employee would like to know more details about the nature of the workplace hazards. The records would tell the names of those injured, where in the plant they worked and how they were injured. Since 1987 she has been trying to get 200 occupational injury and illness logs from Monfort, but, even after taking the matter to court and winning, on February 26, 1991, still does not have the documents. According to *Occupational Safety & Health Reporter* "The (Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission) ruled that the violation of 1904.7(b)(1) was willful. Monfort knew of the regulation's requirements when it failed to

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Monfort of Grand Island May Owe \$1.09 Million in OSHA Penalties

Reprinted with permission from the Grand Island Daily Independent, March 28, 1991. by Michael Hooper

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has charged the Monfort packing plant in Grand Island with 197 alleged violations of safety rules and recommended fines totaling \$1.09 million.

OSHA issued the \$1,092,100 in fines early Wednesday to officials at Monfort Inc., where nearly 1,700 employees slaughter cattle and process beef.

Monfort officials said they intend to contest the OSHA citations.

The citations came as a result of a 10-week OSHA investigation, which was prompted by the Oct. 1, 1990, death of Monfort employee Richard L. Scala. Scala, 44, died after his head was crushed in a hide fleshing machine, which was accidentally turned on. Scala's death was the second fatality at Monfort in a period of 18 months.

"This company has been inspected by OSHA on different occasions and has not yet fully committed to improve or to upgrade working conditions for its employees," OSHA Regional Administrator John Phillips said in a statement from Kansas City, Mo.

Bonnie Skala, Richard's wife, was surprised at the results of the OSHA investigation. "This is a shock," Mrs. Skala said when informed of the size of the fines.

Gene Meakins, vice-president of public relations for Monfort, said Wednesday morning that company officials had not completely reviewed all of the OSHA allegations.

"From our initial review, we have determined that we will contest the citations," Meakins said from his Greeley, Colo., office. Monfort is committed to the safety and health of its employees, he said.

"We are confident that when we are given the opportunity for a full hearing on the matter, our commitment to safety and health will be vindicated," Meakins added.

Alleged Violations

The citations included 105 alleged willful egregious violations, 75 alleged serious violations, three alleged repeat violations and 12 other violations. They include the first egregious citations issued by OSHA under its lockout/tagout standard, a procedure protecting employees from injury, amputation or death through the use of locks or tags to prevent a machine from being restarted while

under repair.

In the latest instance, Skala was killed when proper lockout/tagout procedures were not followed. The company indicated it was aware of those standards, but Monfort didn't make a plan to address existing hazards, OSHA said.

Ben Bare, Omaha area OSHA director,

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'Observer Prints the News the Big Boys Won't'

Editor's note: I know it's tacky to publish self-serving stuff. The proper response to an article such as this would be to blush and say something like "gosh, you shouldn't have," place the article in my scrapbook and modestly mention it to one or two of my closest friends.

On the other hand, the World-Herald might not want you to read this. Colman might wonder what happened if I didn't print it. And some people out there think I'm an egomaniac anyway.

So the heck with it. I'm going to be tacky.

—FM

by Colman McCarthy

Omaha, Neb.--Few citizens in Omaha are without opinions about Frances Mendenhall, who has bushels, even silos, of her own opinions. She is publisher, editor and chief raker of deep muck at The Nebraska Observer, a 16-page alternative monthly newspaper that carries on the journalistic tradition of I.F. Stone and George Seldes, a pair of independents who reported and printed news that the big boys wouldn't.

In Nebraska, the big boy, with a Sunday circulation of 280,000, is the World-Herald, the monopoly paper of Omaha. With no competition, it resembles many other dailies in one-paper towns: thick with ads, thin with zeal. The masthead mottos of these papers ought to read "Ho-hum, So What Else is New?" Some of them have noses for news so clogged that a dead sewer rat couldn't be smelled if it lay on the editor's desk for a month.

Eight years ago, a one-paper town became too much for Mendenhall. She was a practicing dentist who decided to stop complaining about the toothless World Herald and offer an alternative paper. She called it WHAMO--the World-Herald Attitude Monitoring Operation--and adopted the motto, "The next best thing to a second newspaper." In 1989, after six years of earning respect well beyond Omaha, she changed the name to The Nebraska Observer.

The opinion of G. Woodson Howe, the Omaha World-Herald editor, is that as a

newspaperwoman Mendenhall "is a sincere dentist." After that putdown, another. "She isn't a journalist, she's a polemicist," he said polemically. Dick Herman, editorial page editor of the Lincoln Journal, is steadier. He praises Mendenhall for being "the classic journalist who tries to make the First Amendment live. She practices unconventional journalism in a community that doesn't have enough diverse sources or pluralistic insights."

The Observer is a mix of reportage and commentary, most of it delivering the kind of rambunctiousness not found in the World-Herald. A page one story tells "how Omaha's recycling program was canned." Inside, Mendenhall has a 2,000-word article exposing the good-old-boy-process by which mostly white males are appointed to Nebraska's courts. That nerviness was a followup to "Why So Few Women Judges in Nebraska?" in January 1990.

"Over and over," Mendenhall says, "I and a lot of other Nebraskans with a taste for public issues began seeing that the World-Herald was either not reporting or under-reporting taboo subjects--scams in local corporations, labor union struggles, abuses by the military or nuclear power industry. Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but shouldn't a newspaper be agitating a bit, especially if it's the only one in town?"

Mendenhall's agitational bent may come from never having studied journalism in school while learning about life elsewhere. She has

practiced dentistry in health-care projects in Honduras, the Dominican Republic and a Cambodian refugee camp in Thailand. In Omaha, she tells of "having a lot of friends who work in homeless shelters, so they think of me when one of their guests has tooth problems."

In addition to professional deviancies, Mendenhall has a personal one. She's a vegetarian--in the Beef State.

The Observer, which scrapes by on a yearly budget of about \$10,000, depends mostly on volunteers to print mailing labels and deal with the post office. No one looks to be paid and, except for an occasional stipend, on one is. Mendenhall has built up a stable and strong network of citizen activists who contribute articles, ranging from critical looks at the proposed nuclear-waste dump in Nebraska to raising questions about tax breaks for local corporations.

I've been reading The Observer for several years, taking from its pages the same kind of nourishment I need and receive from such other regional daredevils as Tom Gish of The Mountain Eagle of Whitesburg, Ky., and Frosty Troy of The Oklahoma Observer. As much as anyone in the American media, those two would understand an announcement in the current Nebraska Observer: "My Mission in Life." No. 1: "To afflict the comfortable as publisher of The Nebraska Observer." No. 2: "To comfort the afflicted as Frances Mendenhall, D.D.S."

An immediate goal of The Observer is to push up circulation to 3,000. Dick Herman of the Lincoln Journal does his part with a yearly \$20 subscription. I plan to send Frances Mendenhall \$100 for five subscriptions, including one for the library of the Omaha World-Herald. Some of its reporters are known to be reliable sources for The Observer, as well as occasional contributors. Using pen names, for sure. If the big boys found out, they'd be WHAMOed.

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A Note to Mendenhall From McCarthy:

Dear Frances,

Thanks for all the help. It's harder to be interviewed sometimes than doing it from the other end.

Here's the book for Ellie. Hope she likes it. I nudged NCR (National Catholic Reporter) a bit and Mike Farrell said he'd put the column in as soon as possible.

Left at the Post,
Colman

P.S. \$100 to follow. They're watching me here to see if I follow through! Doubters all!

Observer Deadlines

The next Observer will be published May 2.
Story ideas should be in by April 18. Copy is due by April 25.

Copy for the May 28 edition is due May 22.

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There Are Worse Things Than Being Wrong

by Frances Mendenhall

There are worse things than being wrong.

Speaking for the peace movement, which is impossible to do with authority--there is, happily, no hierarchy to grant authority--we are not sorry to have called many things wrong about the war. We failed to predict the astonishing speed of a U.S. victory due to the fact that the world's fourth-largest military force failed to fight. We believed that the carnage of this war would leave no winners. We never expected that our enacting history's largest aerial bombardment would result in fewer than 100 American deaths. We were sure Israel would be drawn into the war and

the coalition would dissolve. Some of us also believed that the price of oil would skyrocket.

These predictions did not materialize, to our surprise and probably also to the surprise of military planners who were steeling the country for the worst and stocking up on body bags. Even for those of us who did not have friends and family in Saudi Arabia, it is impossible not to prefer war's quick end. But it was a preference of lousy choices. And not because we had to admit being wrong.

What's worse than being wrong is the present state of our country gone mad. How else can you describe a society whose press (most of it) unquestioningly accepts Penta-

gon doublespeak about slaughter and destruction and whose opposition party melts in the face of a war justified -- no, sanctified -- not because of its goals, which remain obviously self-serving to other nations, but because of its victory.

What's worse than being wrong is this war's example to our young people demonstrating that there is a technological fix for the problems of international conflict. This generation has seen war presented as Nintendo. The charred bodies and grieving relatives get only passing notice. No notice at all is given to the dead Iraqi soldiers -- according to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell and also according to unofficial Saudi estimates quoted on NPR, 100,000 -- many of whom were probably killed while they were trying to retreat.

Nor will TV coverage bring home to us the anguish of a nation left to battle starvation and disease with its water, sanitation and

health facilities bombed to ruins. "Collateral damage" is what it is called and it is given no value at all by those doing the arithmetic to evaluate the extent of the victory.

I talked to a returning Air Force captain who had flown with refueling planes but was now in his glory. He spoke of the weakness of the Iraqis in genital terms, documenting why they as a race were not only doomed to defeat but deserved to lose control of the oil, "our" oil, just as the Indians lost their land on this continent. Real soldiers are sickened by war; when you hear their stories you have hope that these people can be depended on to guard the peace. But some of the present crop of chest-thumping camera heroes are champing at the bit to kick ass again.

Ironically, the destruction of Iraq's water supplies and sanitation will produce the same result as biological weapons, once rejected by Bush: the sick, the weak, and the very young

Continued on page 6

The Evil of Saddam Does Not Make Us Good

The author is editor of *Sojourners*

by Jim Wallis

I recall a most memorable night in the Washington National Cathedral just a few weeks ago. Sojourners and the cathedral had called for a prayer service and candlelight march to the White House on the eve of the U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. On that Monday night, January 14, American public opinion on whether to go to war was about evenly split. I even remember hearing people say that this might be the first time in history that popular opinion would stop a war before it started.

We hoped for a good turnout, perhaps as many as 2,000 people. But when I saw the gathered crowd, I could scarcely believe my eyes. The seventh largest cathedral in the world was the fullest it had ever been--so full that the fire marshal had to close the doors.

More than 7,000 anxious but hopeful people filled every available space, and 1,500 more listened to the service piped through speakers outside. Then our seemingly endless stream of candlelight flowed through the dark city, past the Iraqi Embassy, and on to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, where we were enthusiastically greeted by 2,000 more people.

From the White House, the flickering candles moved on to Metropolitan AME Church, where we held an all-night prayer vigil. It seemed, that night, that the whole city was glowing in fervent and urgent prayers for peace. The call for an alternative to war had struck a deep nerve in Washington, D.C.

That night now seems like an eternity ago. Two days later, the war began. The polls shifted dramatically, mostly, I believe, out of support for the troops; most people found it difficult to separate support for them from support for the war policy. But there was another critical factor in public perception. The war became an instant "success." And success wiped away all question.

For more than five months before the war

began, the American people wrestled with the moral questions of war and peace in an unprecedented public debate, only to have them disappear in the illuminated skies over Baghdad. The media's serious discussion of the issues at stake was replaced by its mesmerizing fascination with the technology of war. An extraordinary congressional debate disintegrated into a collapse of conscience. The intense moral scrutiny of the war option by the churches and others was usurped by the president's official pronouncement of the war's righteousness, quickly agreed to by the White House theological advisers. With the war going so well, nobody wanted to hear the questions.

But the moral contradictions of the Gulf crisis did not go away the day the fighting started. The initial success of the air war only erased them from our television screens. Indeed, the moral questions became even more urgent and alarming.

President Bush and his religious chaplains asserted that the war in the Persian Gulf is a "just war." Saddam Hussein and his backers claim it is a "holy war." This war was neither just nor holy.

But from the American point of view, it has turned out to be very successful. Since what defines American morality most of all these days is success, dissent quickly became unwelcome, out of style, and out of sight. Indeed, morality and truth became the first casualties in this successful war.

Especially in war, just and righteous causes are in the hands of the victor to declare. Every war in the history of this country has been called "just" by the president who waged it. But each war's morality has been judged by its success. Vietnam dragged on to become a moral "quagmire," while the quick victories of Grenada and Panama brushed aside the moral questions.

Despite early predictions of a bloody and campaign, reports of the ground war were of

yet another great success, due to five weeks of pounding air attacks and the superiority of American technology. "Friendly" casualties were said to be "remarkably light." The thousands of Iraqi civilians and tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers who died have not deterred the definition of "success."

Largest Aerial Bombardment

To have undertaken the largest aerial bombardment in history is a profound moral issue of yet unknown proportions. This war is inflicting suffering on masses of people who are innocent of the crimes of Saddam Hussein. How did killing them strike at him?

Is it enough to say that we didn't intend the killing of civilians or hadn't targeted them, when their suffering and death were a foreseeable consequence of the bombing policies and war strategies our military has pursued? What did we expect would be the results of bombing bridges, refineries, power stations, and military targets in densely populated urban areas?

After burning to death some 400 civilians in Baghdad's Amariya shelter (regardless of whether it was also a command and control center)--on Ash Wednesday, of all days--it was an utter lack of compassion and responsibility to simply blame Saddam for putting them in harm's way of our "smart" bombs. Perhaps our government leaders should have been forced to carry the charred bodies of children back to their parents and explain why they had to die to protect the world from Saddam Hussein. A much more diligent and honest effort should have been undertaken to find a peaceful settlement of this conflict--not to save Saddam's face, but to save their lives.

To have put infinitely more energy and will into a military buildup than into political diplomacy in the Gulf crisis is a moral issue. This is not a war of "last resort," as the president has claimed. The many days and miles of shuttle diplomacy to which he has

referred were overwhelmingly directed toward building a military coalition against Saddam Hussein and authorizing its use, rather than a serious attempt to deal with the underlying disputes and grievances at stake in the Gulf and, indeed, the whole region.

From the beginning, ultimatums substituted for negotiations, and mutual threats preempted substantive dialogue. Without compromising on the bottom line that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, there were alternatives to war that addressed the most important issues.

The outbreak of war reveals a profound failure of political leadership on all sides. Both sides were intransigent, both sides blocked potential solutions. The massive Western military mobilization in August scuttled potential Arab solutions that were in the air, and the fall rebuildup hardened the lines and increased the momentum toward war. Saddam's belligerence caused him to miss many opportunities, and the U.S. snuffed out potential openings for a political settlement.

Bush's rejection of the last-ditch Soviet peace effort was especially tragic. NBC commentator John Chancellor observed that Saddam Hussein had been trying to give up for five days. The Soviet proposal had secured the essentials of the U.N. resolutions: Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and subsequent restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty.

Each hour brought Iraq closer to the U.S. demands for the terms of withdrawal. But George Bush couldn't wait. A date had already been established for launching the ground war, we later learned.

Did the U.S. really plunge ahead just to make Iraq pay reparations to Kuwait, leave more tanks behind, or give the allies post-war leverage over Baghdad? I don't think so.

This war required total victory for the U.S.-led forces and total defeat and humiliation for Saddam Hussein. How else do you begin a new world order guaranteed by Pax

Continued on page 5

Would Men Allow Their Fertility to be Regulated?

New Birth Control Popular as 'Womb Lock'

The following article was compiled from various news sources by off our backs, a feminist publication. Observer efforts to get permission to reprint were unsuccessful because off our backs had a message on its answering machine which said phone calls wouldn't be accepted until several days after our press deadline.

TOPEKA -- Norplant, the first new contraceptive option for U.S. women in 25 years, is fast proving to be a popular tool for those who advocate increased state control over women's bodies.

Less than one month after the Food and Drug Administration approved the contraceptive — and before Norplant was even on the market — a California judge ordered a convicted child-abuser to implant the contraceptive in her arm for three years as a condition of her parole, after serving jail time.

In another instance, an editorial in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* asked readers to seriously "think about" requiring women who have been on welfare a long time to use Norplant. The paper later apologized, but only after receiving nationwide negative publicity.

Now, the Kansas Legislature is considering a proposal in which the state would pay \$500 to women on welfare who are "voluntarily" implanted with the drug. The women also would receive an additional \$50 a year as well as a free checkup to ensure that the drug is still working.

Kerry Patrick, the Republican representative who introduced the legislation, described this bill as an incentive plan "to encourage people to engage in a certain type of behavior" and estimated it would save the state the \$205,000 it costs for a child to remain on welfare from birth to adulthood.

Civil rights officials are objecting to this proposal, saying it is both racist and unconstitutional. They argue that poor women, many of whom are people of color, would be enticed into getting the implants because they need money and not because they would necessarily otherwise choose this particular long-term form of contraception.

"We're talking about a fundamental constitutional right for a woman to decide if and when she's going to bear a child," said Dick Kurtenbach, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri. "This says that for a certain class of women, the state would prefer that they don't have children."

Other groups, including the National Organization for Women and Planned Parenthood of Kansas, say they measure has some merit; Kansas House leaders say the bill may pass.

"If it is voluntary and if the state is going to pay for the procedure, I don't have any serious problem with it," said Colleen Kelly Johnston, president of Wichita's chapter of NOW. "But I would prefer to see it extended

to women in poverty, not just women on welfare."

Kerry Patrick said he will introduce a second proposal, which would force women convicted of cocaine or heroin trafficking or possession to receive the implants as a condition of probation. If random drug shows that a woman has stayed clean for a year, Patrick said she could then have the implant removed. This second proposal is intended to prevent the birth of cocaine-addicted babies, he said.

To use Norplant, a woman must undergo an operation where six matchstick-length tubes will be implanted in her arm. The plastic tubes release synthetic progestin, which suppresses ovulation for up to five years. Health officials say Norplant is 99 percent effective. (The Pill is 94 percent effective; condoms are 84 percent.)

The cost of the operation is about \$500, which brings into question its accessibility to all U.S. women who would choose it as an option. But once the hefty lump sum is paid, the figure is probably less than the cost of

staying on the Pill for five years and twice-yearly checkups.

More than 1 million women in the world already use Norplant. In a column syndicated by the Boston Globe, feminist journalist Ellen Goodman wrote how the contraceptive "offers women, especially those in Third World countries, the liberating possibility of planning their families, often for the first time." Goodman then pointed out the irony of how a potentially liberating contraceptive for women has been embraced by U.S. forces that would rather constrict a woman and "cap social problems by getting a lock on the womb."

"It took 24 years to develop, test and approve an implantable device that can prevent pregnancy for as long as five years," she wrote. "It took less than two weeks for Norplant to be billed as a new method of coercion."

Editor's note: Someday methodology will permit judges and others to suggest that the partners of poor women, addicted women, or any woman deemed to be a poor reproductive risk, be temporarily sterilized. We question whether they would be so quick to do this to men.

FDA Approves Norplant; Lists Benefits, Risks

This article is reprinted from the *FDA Medical Bulletin*, March 1991.

On Dec. 10, 1990, FDA approved the first implantable contraceptive for marketing in the United States. The approval was for levonorgestrel implants (the Norplant System), a long-term (up to five years), highly effective, reversible contraceptive.

Unlike other contraceptive methods, except IUDs and sterilization, the efficacy of the Norplant System does not depend on patient self-medication. The cumulative pregnancy rate for the product over five years is 1.1 percent. It prevents pregnancy through at least two mechanisms: ovulation inhibition and thickening of the cervical mucus.

The Norplant System consists of six flexible, closed, tubular capsules, each containing the progestin levonorgestrel. The product does not contain estrogen. The capsules are inserted beneath the skin of the upper arm. The implants should be removed after five years and, if desired, new ones inserted at that time.

Successful use and eventual removal of the Norplant System depend on a careful and correct subdermal insertion of the capsules. Infection and tissue trauma are possible, especially if physicians and other health professionals do not adhere to proper techniques of insertion and removal. The product's distributor, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, is marketing the Norplant System as a kit with detailed instructions in the labeling on inser-

tion and removal. In addition, Wyeth-Ayerst offers extensive physician training programs. Physicians should not hesitate to remove the contraceptive if a patient requests it.

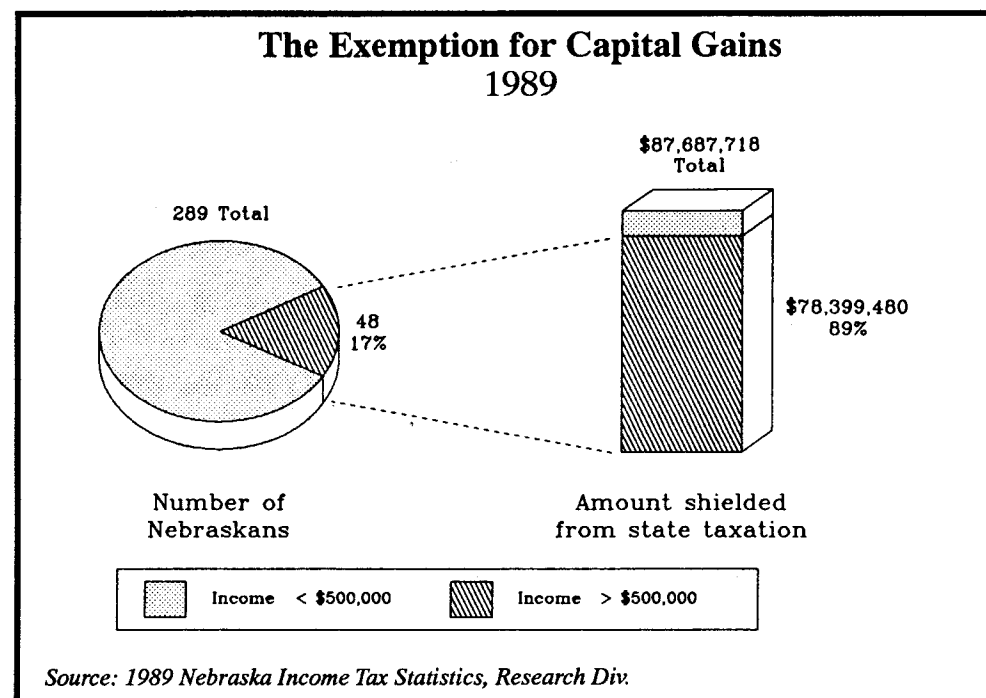
Many patients will experience a change in menstrual bleeding patterns, such as spotting, irregularity, prolonged bleeding, and amenorrhea. These problems may diminish with continued use. Irregular bleeding patterns associated with the Norplant System could mask symptoms of cervical or endometrial cancer.

In multi-clinic trials of the Norplant System, pregnancy rates were slightly higher with increasing body weight. Pregnancy rates began to increase after the third year of use among women who weighed over 150 pounds.

Many of the warnings associated with combination (progestin plus estrogen) oral contraceptives may not apply to the Norplant System since it contains only progestin. Physicians, however, should consider the possible increased risks associated with oral contraceptives, including elevated blood pressure, thromboembolic disorders, and other vascular problems that might occur with use of the contraceptive implant.

For further information about the Norplant System and physician training, contact: Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, attention: Medical Affairs, P.O. Box 8299, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1254. In addition, Wyeth-Ayerst has set up an 800 number for questions about Norplant: 1-800-777-6180 (8:30 to 4:30 EST).

Another \$5 Million Lost



In 1989, 48 wealthy Nebraska taxpayers got out of paying almost \$5 million in capital gains. The Legislature briefly considered undoing that mistake by enacting LB569. Now, however, the bill's chances are slim to none; although it is on General File, it will likely stay there since all our senators thought other bills were more important and nobody took LB569 as his/her priority bill.

Unanswered Moral Questions About the Gulf War, continued from page 3

Americana? Certainly not by allowing the Soviet Union to play a peacemaking role.

Iraq announced its withdrawal from Kuwait, but the U.S.-led coalition continued to press the war. That the demand of complete surrender and the utter vanquishing of Iraq might cost even more lives or lead to unforeseen consequences seems not to matter.

The United States dictating the terms of a post-war new order is not the moral equivalent of "establishing stability." To justify the carnage of this war by claiming the failure of diplomacy is sheer hypocrisy.

Long Term Risks

To have unleashed the demons of war in the Middle East is a moral issue. We do not yet know the longer-term consequences of our short-term success. A mostly Western war against an Arab tyrant carried great risks for engulfing the region in volatility, bitterness, and a cycle of violence and political instability that could be the harvest of this conflict for years to come. To assume that the United States can play a major role in putting the region back together, as has already been suggested, and can now safely maintain a greatly expanded military and political presence is, at best, highly dubious, and painfully reminiscent of the old world order.

The evil of Saddam Hussein does not make us good. Nor does everything we do in the name of fighting him become morally acceptable.

Saddam was such a plausible villain for a global superpower eager to reassert its own righteousness and authority. He was the perfect enemy. Hating him made us feel better about ourselves. Fighting him united us and helped us forget about our problems at home. Demonizing him demonstrated our moral superiority. Beating him made us feel strong and powerful again.

Saddam was a made-for-T.V. bad guy who proved enormously useful to the nation as it sought to put the moral taint and paralysis of Vietnam and its "syndrome" finally behind us-and as it tried to cover up our internal unraveling (which is more and more apparent), silenced the critics who questioned the righteousness of our role in the world, and outflanked our economic competitors and enlisted them in the new world order under the banner of American leadership. We needed Saddam Hussein, for our rehabilitation and redemption as the world's number one nation again.

Saddam helped to save Pax Americana. But to have backed ourselves into the corner of war with a dictator as dangerous, brutal, and as capable of terrible atrocities as Saddam Hussein--rather than to have contained, undercut, and defeated him in other ways--may eventually turn out to have been a serious political and moral miscalculation.

In addition to establishing George Bush's new world order, the control of oil supplies was central to the causes of this crisis from the beginning. Going to war for cheap oil was

such a dubious moral justification that the president stopped talking about the need to "protect our way of life"--a way of life in which 6 percent of the world's population consumes more than 25 percent of the world's petroleum supplies.

The lack of an energy policy in the West that honors our responsibilities to both justice and the environment is a moral failure. For the White House to announce, in the heat of war, an energy policy that perpetuates the same patterns that led us into this conflict is a clear indication that nothing has been learned from this crisis.

If there were not a sea of oil beneath the Kuwaiti sands, would we have gone to war in the Gulf? The United States has not acted out of President Bush's "conviction oppose injustice" in myriad countries around the globe, from Central America to South Africa, from Haiti to Cambodia. In fact, in many cases, the United States has not only refused to oppose tyranny and aggression, it has been both a passive and an active supporter of repressive regimes--including Saddam Hussein's.

Should we have declared war on China and begun bombing Beijing for its crushing of the democracy movement and its brutal occupation of neighboring Tibet? Should we bomb Moscow for the Soviet Union's violent repression of independence movements in the Baltic republics?

After we have finished with Saddam Hussein, will we then remove the military rulers in El Salvador who have killed tens of thousands of their own people during the last decade? Apparently not; during the distraction of the Gulf war, George Bush quietly sent more military aid to San Salvador.

Moral Double Standard

The massive U.S. response to aggression and injustice in Kuwait, while virtually ignoring or even supporting such activity in so many other cases, is a moral double standard. In particular, to have so long accepted and supported the injustice done to Palestinians through 23 years of brutal occupation by Israel underlies this conflict and is a moral issue. Just because Saddam Hussein has sought to use the Palestinian question for his own self-serving purposes does not diminish its importance on its own moral grounds. Delaying further the legitimate grievances of Palestinians in order not to "reward Saddam Hussein's aggression" is morally unacceptable.

Turning away from the non-military instruments of sanctions, diplomacy, and multilateral political resolve in favor of the technology of war has, in fact, forestalled the hope of a genuinely new world order by again affirming the principles of the old world order--that "might makes right." Despite the claims of our political leaders, our options in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were not simply inaction or war, appeasement or conflagration. This war was created by political leaders with limited vision and abundant technology. And a last-minute just war de-

fense was merely a cynical replacement for persistent diplomacy and moral reflection.

Pax Americana is not a new world order. A world dominated by one superpower, instead of two, is neither safer, freer, nor more just--especially for those on the bottom. Are the world's poor to simply trust the strong to rule with compassion toward the weak, as the President of the United States has suggested?

It is now abundantly clear that George Bush and the American power elite saw the end of the Cold War not as an opportunity for peace and cooperation, but as the chance for singular dominance. What many hoped would be a fresh hope for reducing military budgets, rebuilding our own communities, and establishing new relationships is quickly turning into a new world order made safe only by the continued ability of the United States to inflict massive violence on "outlaw" nations.

And the American world policeman gets to define the law. The same United States that today speaks in such reverential tones about United Nations resolutions felt free to ignore the World Court's condemnation of its covert war against Nicaragua, U.N. resolutions against the U.S. invasion of Panama, and many resolutions regarding the self-determination of the Palestinians. The United States even gets to define language.

The imposition of Pax Americana is the ultimate purpose of the war in the Persian Gulf and has been since the beginning. It is the moral context in which this tragic war must now be placed. The credibility of the new world order of which George Bush now constantly speaks is the central issue in this war. That new world order will be enforced and controlled by the military supremacy and political direction of the United States. "There is no substitute for American leadership," says the president.

The new order will be financed and supported by the other rich nations who, along with the United States, will be its primary beneficiaries. Its cultural and spiritual values will be shaped by the same media giants that have brought us this war and who represent the corporate economic power that is the strongest global force in the world today.

The war in the Persian Gulf was not only against Saddam Hussein. It was also a war against all the soldiers who were sent to their death, and their families and friends who grieve their loss. It was a war against all the young people who entered the military as a door to the future, only to have it open on to a killing field.

It was against all the civilians who got caught in the crossfire or who became expendable as "collateral damage" in military operations. It was a war against the earth, which was left scorched, polluted, and contaminated. It was against all those whose hopes for a better life were again deferred by the costs and consequences of war, those whose violation and victimization were covered up by the world's distracted attention, and those whose lives became caught up in

the bitterness, hatred, and cycle of violence this war unleashed for generations to come.

Ultimately, this war was a sin against God, in whose name and with whose self-righteously claimed blessing it was carried out against God's children and God's earth. And it is to God that we will all answer for this war.

What will be the aftermath of war? We had to hope that it would end quickly so that more lives would not be lost. But the faster it ended, the more the war policy would be vindicated. Success would become the proof that this war was a moral venture.

With low American casualties, the war portrayed a not only successful and moral, but also as relatively cost-free. Unlike the terrible human cost of both World War II and the Vietnam War, which shaped earlier generations, kids growing up today will believe that video war games match the real thing.

War itself is gaining a new degree of respectability and appeal while enjoying the protection of an unreal world. Congressional critics are saying the president was right all along. The press is even more tame and timid to challenge the government. And the peace movement is being popularly discredited for having been "wrong."

But we weren't wrong; we just didn't win. There is, however, a more important thing than winning. The Bible calls it being faithful. Those of us in the churches who spoke out strongly against the war will come under attack, and indeed, already have.

In the religious debate over the war, some things have become clear. In the churches, there are those who identify their religion with the expansion of Pax Americana to the rest of the world; and there are those who identify their faith with the victims of Pax Americana, both at home and around the globe. That will now become the decisive issue that divides Christians in the United States and throughout the world. Is the new world order something to be embraced, or to be resisted? Are the cultural values of a newly revitalized, American-led West really Christian? Or is the survival of Christian faith in the West dependent on its becoming more explicitly countercultural?

This could well be a time of testing, to know what we believe and why. It might also turn out to be a critical moment for clarification and even purification of faith. A re-examination of our relationships--to the culture, the state, our work, our churches, our families and communities, and ultimately, to the gospel and the one we claim to follow--could be one result. If that occurs, we could be entering a difficult but potentially very redemptive period.

The Persian Gulf war has changed us. The country is not the same. A new spirit has come over the land. And how we discern the spirit of the age will be central to Christian discipleship.

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As Ag Policy Committee Cheerleads Free Trade

President Bush Backs Fast Track

by Annette Higby

The author is on the staff of the Center for Rural Affairs

On March 1, President Bush submitted a request to Congress to keep alive for another two years the fast track approval process. The fast track which was set to expire on June 1, 1991 requires Congress to vote yes or no on any trade agreement and its implementing legislation submitted by the President without amendment and with limited debate.

Unless either the House or the Senate pass a resolution disapproving the extension by June 1, 1991 the fast track approval process will be available to the U.S. Trade Representative for another 2 years or until June 1, 1993. A resolution disapproving the extension was introduced in the House by Congressman Dorgan of North Dakota on March 5th. Late in March, Sen. Hollings of South Carolina introduced the Senate version of the bill.

The President indicated an intent to use the extension of the fast track approval process not only for the GATT talks but also for the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada and the pursuit of his trade objectives under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative.

Nebraska Child Care Problems

Center for Public Affairs research consultant Patrick Funk provided testimony February 14 to the Health and Human Services Committee of the State Legislature in support of LB836, the Quality Child Care Act.

Her testimony included these findings from a statewide survey of 600 parents of preschool children which she conducted for CPAR:

A majority of parents have a problem finding high quality or affordable or accessible child care services. Rural and low income families are most likely to face these problems.

Seventy-two percent of Nebraska youngsters under age 6 are in regular child care, compared to the national average of 62 percent.

Of the 72 percent in child care arrangements:

- 79 percent are in home-based programs, compared to 66 percent nationally; and
- almost half are located in homes of child care providers who are not related, which is twice the national average.

Copies of the survey report, Nebraska Preschool Child Care: 1990, as well as other statistical reports, may be obtained by contacting the Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam-on-the-Mall, Omaha, Neb. 68182.

Except for Congressman Barrett who supports the extension of the fast track process, none of Nebraska's Congressional delegation has decided whether to support the legislation.

The fast track was passed in the Trade Act of 1974 along with several other important provisions and trade reforms. The Act also requires the U.S. Trade Representative to hold public hearings on any proposed trade agreement and to establish "broadly representative" private sector advisory committee to advise on trade policy.

Last year the U.S. Trade Representative refused to hold field hearings to allow farmers and rural based farm, church and environmental groups to express their views on the U.S. proposal for agricultural trade liberalization. And the U.S. Trade Representative's Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee looks more like a cheerleading section for free trade than an advisory committee.

Trade Talks to Resume

Arthur Dunkel, Chairman of the GATT has announced that the Uruguay Round talks would resume March 1, 1991 in Geneva. The talks broke down in December largely as a result of an impasse over the agriculture negotiations.

Resumption was made possible by what Carla Hills, the U.S. Trade Representative, called an "apparent breakthrough" in the agriculture negotiations: The European Community (E.C.) decided not to object to a

statement drafted by Dunkel saying that all GATT parties "agree to conduct negotiations to achieve specific binding commitments" in the areas of domestic support, market access and export competition.

The "breakthrough" isn't all that apparent. In the midterm agreement achieved in April of 1989 and again at the Houston Summit in July of 1990 the parties agreed to negotiate toward "substantial and progressive reductions" in domestic support, market access barriers and export subsidies.

By our calculation, this is the third time U.S. negotiators have achieved a framework for negotiation and called it a breakthrough. It is hardly the kind of significant progress that should be required to justify the extension of the fast track approval process. Practically speaking, extension of the fast track means a two year extension of the Uruguay Round.

While the E.C. withheld any objection to Dunkel's statement on agriculture they did not withdraw a set of earlier demands. Among them is the notion of rebalancing. Rebalancing would allow the E.C. to increase import barriers for some commodities like corn gluten while lowering import barriers for other commodities. They have also insisted that U.S. deficiency payments be treated as export subsidies, rather than internal support. Export subsidies could be subject to larger cuts than other forms of agricultural support.

In light of the outstanding differences, Dunkel's effort to restart the Round are a bit like jump starting a car with four flat tires.

On the Killing of a Story

by Frances Mendenhall

Some of the most fun I have publishing this paper comes from empowering others. It is especially satisfying to help a promising person acquire skills and grow professionally. But sometimes it just isn't in the cards.

Last week I had to kill someone's story and it was hard, although surely harder on the writer than on me. It was an important story too, and compelling to read.

The writer's name is John. His article was about police treatment of blacks. Its problem was that details of some quotes were inaccurate and attributed to the wrong people.

This is to encourage John and others who think of writing.

I am sorry not to be able to use your story. It was kind of you to offer to help and I really needed some help this week. The story was hot and you wrote it in a way that made sense out of some complicated events and patterns. It was fun to think about having it on our front page. I know you put a lot of thought into the piece, as well as a lot of time interviewing people. And, while I understand the sentiments of the prominent person of North Omaha (I will call him PPNO), I can't help wishing

he could have been a little more flexible and let us work out the problems instead of just refusing to be in the story. PPNO has told me many times the frustration he has met with the commercial press; you'd think he'd see the value in encouraging an unpaid newcomer even if that person had made a mistake. We don't have the cash flow to hire experienced writers, but we have attracted committed people whose hearts are in the right place.

I hope you will write again soon. Do not worry about causing us to miss our deadline. We used the extension to make the stories we had better. It turned out all right. Besides, I'm sure you learned some useful things from what happened that will serve you well in your future career. The mistakes you made are understandable, but with hindsight easy to avoid.

As for other beginning writers, they might meet with frustrations as you did, but I still hope they'll try, and not just because I get tired of doing all the work around here. A plurality of viewpoints is what makes democracy work!

So keep your chin up. I really hope you will do it again.

Worse Things Than Being Wrong For Those Who Seek Peace

From page 3

or old will be hit the hardest. To a victim, dying of diarrhea looks the same whether it is sprayed from a plane or comes from a water supply contaminated by cholera.

Modern war ultimately does produce only losers. Every technological advance by one side has been matched by adversary nations. It is only a matter of time before every nation considers Patriot missiles and smart bombs essential and will sacrifice the most basic of domestic priorities to get them. (See page 5 discussion of the food crisis in the Horn of Africa.)

What's worse than being wrong is seeing our nation glory in its new role — hired gun. A year ago we could hope for a change of direction, that people could now be free to see the urgency of shifting national priorities to rebuilding our manufacturing capabilities, addressing poverty, and building a just and workable health care system. Some even hoped to see the U.S. help rather than arm the poorest of countries such as El Salvador. The real cost of the Reagan era defense spending was coming home and people were waking up to the need for dramatic change. It could have worked.

But now America is standing tall again, a superpower if only in guns. The peace dividend is just a memory. And a New World Order may only be a promise to make the world safe for greed.

Many of us still believe that violence must never be a first resort, that cooperation is better than force, and that sanctions are better than war. It appears that we are in a minority now, and in fact we are. The task of turning this country around seems too difficult to contemplate sometimes.

Perhaps this view is too pessimistic. I am also reminded of the challenges faced by many parents of adolescents, and this in a way gives me hope. Maybe our nation, having finished its childhood, is making an awkward transition to adulthood and this will all pass. Maybe nations commonly go through this just as many teenagers think they know everything. Perhaps all we have to do is find new ways to give each other strength and keep the candle lit.

On the other hand, maybe there are forces at work more permanent and insidious than just adolescent ego. We may face tougher times and greater sacrifice than any of us imagine.

And we may not even succeed, unless we accept as success merely remaining faithful.

Computers Help Build Activist Networks

by John Boyd

Just as "the power of the press" was, for years, limited to those who had millions of dollars to buy a press, so had the "power of the computer" been limited to those few government and corporate giants who could afford mainframe computers.

But over the past several years, the personal computer revolution has increasingly put both of these "powers" into the hands of the many.

One small personal computer empowers an individual to do the work which used to require a large committee — addressing and zip code sorting a thousand envelopes, for example.

And the "desktop publishing" power of personal computers makes it feasible for an ever-growing number of alternative newspapers, magazines and periodicals to survive and even thrive.

Even more amazing are some of the new abilities the personal computer provide for an individual group or organization: sending "electronic mail" around the world in seconds; "teleconferencing" with dozens of people from across the country to get new ideas; electronically searching thousands of newspapers or magazines in seconds to get the in-

formation you need to support your arguments; tapping into "alternative" news sources; or instantly sending fax messages to all the members of congress — without owning a fax machine.

Locally, many of these computer benefits are being used for social action.

Matt Martin, a political science major at Creighton, uses his PC in a variety of ways.

"The computer use started as an outgrowth of my interests in other areas," Martin said. "I've been to Nicaragua, am involved in Central America issues, anti-nuke, and housing issues. I was looking for sources of information other than channels 3, 6, 7 and the World-Herald.

"I found PeaceNet through a friend in Ohio. I get information on all those issues from PeaceNet and then share it with Youth for Peace, and with some concerned people on the Creighton campus," Martin said.

He also used a desktop publishing program to produce a couple of newsletters for Creighton student groups, and to handle the mailing list for the Omaha Central America Response Team.

Don Doumakes is another computer enthusiast who uses his machine to serve his progressive politics. Doumakes operates "The

Parlor," and computer Bulletin Board System (BBS) on which he posts articles and hosts discussions which are not seen in the mainstream media.

"The computer BBS is an unusual communication medium because you can participate actively," Doumakes said. "I think a two-way medium fits better with my politics."

The Parlor has been in operation for about two years, and has about 100 users. Doumakes finds the system lets people concentrate on ideas. "I can reach people on the system and have them focus on my words, not on my appearance or any other variables," he said.

Doumakes is also a PeaceNet user. He downloads articles to be posted on The Parlor, and also uses the PeaceNet electronic fax service. "I can be watching C-Span, see a debate on an issue which concerns me, and use my computer have a fax in Peter Hoagland's office within five minutes," he said.

Omahan Dave Henney works for Dames & Moore, a firm which specializes in the clean-up of hazardous waste. He uses his computer to tap into EcoNet (available through PeaceNet). "I thought it would be a good source of information for me," he said, "and while it was not the source of technical information I was looking for, it proved to be a valuable way to

get insight on peoples reactions to environmental issues, a good way to get insight into public opinion."

Alternative Media

The paper you are holding in your hands, you probably wouldn't be holding if not for the paper's extensive use of computers.

The Nebraska Observer's writing, editing, typesetting and page layout are all done on computers — without which production of the paper would be impossible, or at least prohibitively expensive. Many of the national news stories you read here come from alternative computer-based news services.

And, of course, the money-generating subscription mailing list is also maintained on a PC.

Computer Hurdles

Two hurdles generally stand in the way of community or social action groups wanting to computerize: finding the funds to buy a computer system, and the expertise to get it up and running.

The price barrier is falling, as the cost of new technology always does, and the price for entry-level systems should continue to fall as newer top-end systems push in.

Almost any small-to-mid-sized group should be able to run its entire operation with computer system costing about \$1,000: an IBM XT compatible clone with a minimum of 640K RAM and a 20 MB hard drive is available new for \$800 or less; good quality 9-pin dot matrix printers sell for under \$200; and a good integrated program (word processing, database, spreadsheet and communications) such as Microsoft Works is about \$100.

This system will allow you to maintain a membership database, do mailing labels sorted by zip code, generate personalized form letters, keep the books, and more. For another \$100 or less you can add a modem, allowing you to communicate with other computers worldwide.

There are a number of computer retailers in Omaha and Lincoln who can meet or beat this price range.

If you have a computer expert to help you shop for bargains, to help you find good, used equipment, you can do even better on price (check out the monthly "Computer Shopper" for lowest mail order prices, but only if you know what you're doing). Or, check out used equipment advertised in the classifieds.

IBM vs. Mac

While an entry-level Macintosh system might be easier to use, consider that it will cost several hundreds of dollars more, and is much less likely to be compatible with other groups, or with other organizations with which you might want to share resources. Ask around first to see what system others groups with which you work are using, and whether you

Why Should Neptune Join Patrol?



Dear Lulu:

I'm just so upset with this Don Stenberg thing and the Attorney's General mess. Comparing him to Saddam Hussein, of all things! I mean, isn't it his business who he fires and hires and so on? I mean, if these people he fired were nuts, then they were nuts. I mean, the Democrats do it all the time—they come in and fire the Republicans. So now a Republican does it and he gets sued. What's this world coming to? And another thing, I met Don Stenberg at a Republican dinner, so what more can I say? And then he gets criticized for hiring his brother. Well, what are relatives for if you can't pay them something? I tell you, I'm just sick about it. And then he gets criticized for trying to keep

Neptune out of the State Patrol. Well, I mean, why would the man ever want to leave the sea and join the patrol I'd like to know. I'm just sick about it. And what about poor Kay Orr? I just found out she lost the last election! Where is she? What is the world coming to?

Love, A Stenberg-fan in Steinauer.

Dear Fan:

Armageddon, from the sounds of your letter. It does appear Donald may have allegedly fired folks for their political beliefs. But, as lawyers are wont to say, that case is pending so we can't comment, or discuss our fees.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

My husband and I have been real busy diggin' a root cellar out back for the past few months so we haven't heard any news, plus we haven't gone bowlin' 'cause we stink so bad but this morning a man with a mustache, six women and \$35 billion in cash showed up at our door and I think he said he his name was "Sodden and Insane," but he was asking for "A silo," "A Solemn," "asylum," in Nebraska, or something like that. Have you ever heard of this? What should I do?

Love, Afraid in Ainsworth.

Dear Afraid:

Hide the flatware and put him in that new root cellar. Hold a gun on him 'til Barbara Bush arrives.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I am sick and tired of people making fun

of we women's "female problems," with stand-up comics talking about "raging hormones," "that time of the month," "having a visitor," "little sister's here" and other such stupidities. Some even claim that the Lennon Sisters, Maimie Eisenhower and Mother Theresa are examples that some women never have PMS, while Zsa Zsa, Leona Helmsley and Tammy Faye are clear samples that some women have it all the time. There are cartoons, books, calendars and even cookbooks that try to squeeze a laugh out of our troubles. I have even heard they used to have "menstrual shows"! For heaven's sake, what could those have been?

Love, Outraged in Omaha.

Dear Outraged:

While not very well known, menstrual shows used to be very popular. Women stage performers with tambourines would put on heavy rouge and eye makeup, act slightly crabby and then finish by retaining water. Cable TV pretty much did away with the menstrual show, although folklorists claim they're still popular in remote areas of South Dakota. Keep up the good questions about the history of the entertainment industry in Nebraska.

Love, Lulu.

Lulu's attorney is Dennis Collins of Norfolk. Address all legal problems to him. Suing the Nebraska Observer is a waste of time.

Continued on page 12

Lay people form Support Groups, Build Networks

Lyme Disease Can Be Mistaken for M.S.

by Frances Mendenhall

Lyme disease was unknown until 1977 when its organism was discovered and named. It is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which infects humans who get bitten by certain kinds of ticks.

Not all Lyme victims have it, but a rash, often following the bite, is characteristic. Lyme disease can remain dormant for months or years. It often occurs alternating between unpredictable periods of remission. Its symptoms include fatigue and flu-like problems such as malaise and headache, sore throat, arthritis, rashes, and heart problems, but its most common symptoms are neurological. These include paralysis, visual problems, memory problems, loss of sensation and tremors.

Lyme disease does not have a definitive diagnosis. There is a titer, but many things, including taking the antibiotics which are the

recommended treatment, can give unreliable results.

Lyme disease resembles multiple sclerosis and other diseases which have neurological symptoms and are also difficult to diagnose. But there is one important difference. Lyme disease can be treated with much more success than M.S.

Many people believe that Lyme disease is underreported, and that the medical community resists acknowledging its presence. Dr. Margaret Olsen, director of Creighton's virology lab, believes that there are very few cases of Lyme disease in Nebraska, and those that are here were gotten from tick bites in other states. Mainstream physicians have trouble believing that any doctor would resist recognizing Lyme disease. "Why shouldn't we want to make the diagnosis of a rare and treatable disease — it would be a feather in our cap!" said one physician friend of this writer.

But Lyme sufferers insist that this is the case. "Maybe," as one Lyme put it, "because physicians are fearful of being wrong."

Dr. Wayne Kramer, medical entomologist for the Nebraska Department of Health, admits that none of the ticks which usually cause Lyme disease have been identified in Nebraska. But another species, the Lone Star tick, has been found in the southeast part of the state. Kramer knows of "half a dozen" people who got it here. But he believes that the actual numbers are much higher. "We still haven't added Lyme disease to our list of reportable cases, so we have no confidence that our figures are accurate," he said.

Sarah Roemer of Lincoln has Lyme disease and she knows when and where she got it. "It was during Labor Day weekend of 1988," she recalls. Roemer got a tick bite and later came down with unexplainable symptoms. Eleven diagnoses (including M.S.) and 38 doctors later, she knew she had Lyme disease. Later Roemer was to learn that her 8-year old son had it, and then she found out her infant son got it from her from breast feeding.

Roemer heads up the Midwestern Lyme Association. She and her supporter Priscilla Johnson have had contact with 44 Nebraska patients who had positive Lyme diagnoses which they got from doctors outside Nebraska. All but four are sure that they got bitten in Nebraska.

Kramer is dismayed that Lyme disease is not recognized more and that physicians sometimes dismiss as kooks people who believe they have it. "It is certainly possible for people with Lyme disease to be misdiagnosed as having M.S. I believe there is a partial overlap," he said.

In April 1989, Kramer went looking for the Lyme organism in Nebraska dogs. He got blood samples from 55 dogs, that, he admits, did not represent a cross section of the state, but rather, were dogs whose owners had detected symptoms or just rural dogs.

The blood samples were tested with a fluorescent antibody test. According to Kramer, 32 showed titers over 128, and 19 were over 256. That meant that at least 19 and maybe as many as 32 had had some exposure to the organism, which was probably *B. burgdorferi*, but Kramer also points out that there is also some crossover from other borrelia. Nonetheless, it appeared that there was a significant level of exposure to the organism.

Personal Networks

People who have chronic diseases, especially neurologic diseases which are difficult to diagnose, often develop their own resource networks outside traditional medicine. This has happened in the case of Lyme disease. There is a newsletter, the Lyme Disease Update, published by Lyme victim Charlene Glover of Mill Shoals, Ill. A recent edition has a front page illustration of an ostrich with head buried in sand. In Nebraska there is the Midwest

Lyme Association headed by Sarah Roemer. In Fort Worth Mamie Rich, a Lyme sufferer, now almost completely symptom-free, met with difficulty in getting a reliable diagnosis; when she finally got the antibiotics she needed and got better, she started calling the media. Since then, she says, there have been several articles written about her, as well as some TV and radio shows. As a result, she has a nationwide network of Lyme disease sufferers. Rich says that she knows about 500 Lyme patients nationwide, most of whom were at one time suspected of having M.S.

Rich also tells stories of the problems that her physicians met in treating her. One, a doctor who was originally from India, was met with disbelief in the community and ridicule by his colleagues for treating Lyme disease. "He was almost run out of town," said Rich. He now has taken a much lower profile on the subject of Lyme disease, according to Rich.

Rich's present physician, a neurologist, was also met with ridicule. "She's been called a quack and everything else," said Rich.

A South Dakota family practice physician, John Griffin, himself diagnosed in 1984 as having M.S., believes there is an important similarities between M.S. and Lyme disease. A family practitioner in Knoxville, Iowa, in 1984, he had typical M.S. symptoms: tremors in his left hand, paralysis in right leg and right arm, visual problems. Griffin had two independent diagnoses of M.S., one from his personal physician, the other from the University of Iowa neurology specialists. Griffin got worse with the treatment options then available. In January 1988, thinking along the same lines as Council Bluffs veterinarian Vincent Marshall (see related article), Griffin began treating himself with doxycycline. After two or three weeks, he says, he began to get better. His last major symptoms were a year ago and now he is "95 percent cured." Griffin is 58 and believes that the other 5 percent may be due to age.

Griffin did not use the usual antibiotics used for Lyme patients, drugs such as ro-cephin and claforan, which are expensive and usually given IV.

Later, Griffin moved to Hot Springs, S.D., where he took a job consulting in a V.A. hospital. Griffin began treating others with doxycycline, and prescribing it over the phone. He has now prescribed for around a hundred people. He believes they have all either gotten better or not gotten any worse. "We are not very scientific," he said, referring to his lack of data. "I call in a prescription and they call me back in a couple of months. They are always either markedly improved or no worse." Griffin always tells people who call to check with their personal physician and to get his approval.

Last fall Griffin spoke to the M.S. support

Council Bluffs Veterinarian Believes M.S. is a Form of Neurological Lyme Disease

by Frances Mendenhall

Council Bluffs veterinarian Vincent Marshall believes that Multiple Sclerosis actually is a form of Lyme disease. In a 1988 article in Medical Hypothesis, Marshall made his case.

Although the mainstream medical community discounts his theory, Marshall maintains it because of several things.

The organism which causes Lyme disease is *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a spirochete similar to the causative agent of syphilis, which was not discovered or named until the '80s. Although the establishment now considers M.S. to be caused by a virus rather than a spirochete, before the early '50s medical literature had numerous examples of spirochetes being linked with MS patients. In an article by Marshall he cites articles which document the presence of spirochetes in cerebrospinal fluid of MS patients and in their central nervous system, 35 articles in all, all before 1955. The medical establishment has not identified the virus which they believe causes M.S., nor do they have a treatment for the virus.

Lyme disease and M.S. have similarities when studied with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Marshall cited three articles (by Galletta, Fernandez, and Peterman) to support this.

Marshall also cites numerous similarities in the symptoms of the two diseases, not only their neurological characteris-

tics, but also their patterns of latency, exacerbation and remission. Also in the article was a discussion of histological similarity of the lesions in both diseases, as well as an account of similar geographic distribution. And, according to Marshall, "High M.S. incidence occurs in animal husbandry areas, as well as those areas with high prevalence of house pets and recreational hunting and camping... (and) close association with animals." Lyme disease is acquired from a tick bite.

Marshall believes that M.S. research should be directed toward spirochetes and that the antibiotics used in treating Lyme disease should be used for all M.S. patients. Although most others in the medical community are skeptical, Marshall says "there is good reason to believe M.S. can be changed from the most common neurological disease in our country today to a rarely seen one."

One thing Marshall does not have is controlled data, either on laboratory or clinical case studies or on documented responses or lack of response to antibiotic treatment. When asked about this he responded, "I feel that we have adequate evidence for this approach to M.S. Unfunded projects can not be held to the same standards as well funded ones." Marshall feels that research on spirochetes and M.S. has been delayed for 40 years because of denial of funds.

Continued on page 9

Hunger—the 'Other' Desert Crisis

by Kraig Klaudt
Bread for the World

On February 21, the World Food Program increased its estimate of the number of people at risk of starvation in the Horn of Africa from 16 million to 21 million people.

This "other" desert crisis in the Horn of Africa has been overlooked as the world's attention has focused on the war in the gulf. If the suffering of the 1984-85 famine--in which over 1 million people died--is to be avoided, it is critical that the world become aware of the present situation.

In **Ethiopia**, more than 5 million people are affected by civil wars and famine. Nearly one-fourth of all Ethiopian children are dying before their fifth birthday. Even though it is the world's second poorest nation with a per capita GNP of \$120, Ethiopia is spending more than 70 percent of its budget on military and security expenditures. Reports out of the war zones of Eritrea, Tigray, Wollo and Shao describe a massacre of civilians by napalm bombings and a rising number of "living skeletons" who have left their villages in search of food.

In **Sudan**, an estimated 9 to 11 million people are affected by war and famine. Since 1988, as many as a half-million new graves have been dug very quietly in Sudan because of hunger and conflict. It is estimated that the present civil war is costing the Sudanese government about \$1 million a day.

In **Somalia**, 7 million people are affected by war and famine. More than 50,000 people have been killed by the Somalia government in the past two years. Siad Barre, who had led the government since 1969, was ousted from power in January 1991. It is unclear whether the recent bloodshed which took the lives of

2,000 people in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, will continue as opposition groups contend for power.

The situation in the Horn of Africa is frighteningly similar in its origins to the recent conflict in the Gulf.

Like the people of Iraq, the people of Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia have been ruled by treacherous and oppressive leaders. For example, a report by Africa Watch in March 1990, called Sudan a "human rights disaster," and its leader, Omer al-Bashir, "exceptionally cruel and intolerant" and "indiscriminately brutal."

Like the Middle East, the Horn of Africa has been awash in a sea of arms from the U.S., Soviet Union and NATO nations. In the past decade, at least \$10 billion worth of arms have been sent to the Horn of Africa. Development aid to grassroots groups has been small by comparison. For example, the entire total of U.S. development aid to sub-Saharan Africa last year (\$800 million) was less than the cost of one B-52 bomber (\$860 billion). Horn of Africa governments are also emphasizing armaments rather than development, as can be seen by the fact that there are nearly 500,000 soldiers and only 967 doctors in Ethiopia and Somalia.

It is tragic that money is being spent to fight civil wars and not hunger. It is even more tragic that these wars make it difficult to deliver food to hungry people. Frequently, Horn governments and opposition forces have used food as a weapon, refusing to let humanitarian aid pass into rebel-held areas, leaving civilians in those areas to starve. The wars also disrupt development projects and displace people from their lands, leaving them unable to produce and market their own food.

Last year, for example, the Ethiopian government bombed the Eritrean-held port of

Massawa, preventing relief works from moving food to civilians in the area. Presently, in the port of Bor in southern Sudan, a lifesaving food barge called the "Red Cross Two" sits filled with food and medical supplies. To reach half a million civilians struck by draught and disease, the barge must pass through areas in the South held by rebels. The government of Sudan, fearing that the barge will be captured by rebel soldiers and used to transport weapons, will not allow it to proceed.

There is still time for the United States to play a constructive role in defusing this situation and promoting peace. The outrage which the United States has expressed to Saddam Hussein needs to be expressed to the military regimes of Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia as well. Fortunately, much can be accomplished without the use of U.S. military force.

Bread for the World recommends that Congress and the President take steps to make certain that relief supplies get to all those in need, and not permit governments to starve those in rebel-occupied regions. The United States should support grassroots efforts to carry out food production, health care, and stabilize the environment. And the United States should support efforts to stop arms sales to these countries and encourage all parties to find peaceful resolutions to the conflicts.

The United States has been able to exert impressive diplomatic power on nations of all ideologies in bringing about near unanimous condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It is important that the United States use this power to protest the human rights abuses of Mengistu and al-Bashir as well as those of Saddam Hussein; and to protest when food, not just oil, is being used as a weapon.

Lyme, from 8

group in Rapid City, S.D. Now, he says, nearly everyone in that group is taking doxycycline. The group meets again April 11, and Griffin and Cal Weist, who heads the group, are anxious to see what progress members report.

This reporter spoke to 11 people, one man and 10 women, who had experience with M.S. and antibiotic treatment. Experiences of these people varied from three who for several years had actual M.S. diagnoses they now believe to be wrong, to some who had diagnoses of M.S. for only a short time, to others who got an early diagnosis of Lyme disease but had to struggle to find a doctor willing to consider Lyme. Only one reported taking antibiotics but not being helped by it. Another believed she had Lyme disease but was not able to convince her doctor, and had not tried the antibiotic treatment because insurance would not pay for it. The other eight believed they had been helped by antibiotics. They reported improvement that lasted from a few weeks to a year.

Dr. Kramer says he has a lot of compassion for people who face the frustration of long-term disease with problematic diagnosis. Because of similarities of symptoms, they may latch on to Lyme disease in their search for answers. They read everything they can get on it and tell others, and sometimes even make it a crusade. But it is important to be careful. "Lyme disease," he says, "is not the answer for all the undiagnosed disease."

Connie Lawrence, who suffered from crippling neurologic symptoms between 1984 and early 1990 when she began taking antibiotics, says she believes every M.S.er should be given the chance to have a Lyme titer. Lawrence has had only light symptoms for more than a year.

New York physician Kenneth Liegner is not ready to say that multiple sclerosis is the end result of Lyme disease, but, he said in *Lyme Disease Update*, November, 1990, "my personal feeling is that anyone with M.S. should be re-evaluated."

Council Bluffs, Iowa veterinarian Vincent Marshall has tried for several years with little success to convince the medical community that M.S. is a form of chronic Lyme disease. Marshall believes all M.S. patients should be on antibiotics. "There is nothing to lose and everything to win. Antibiotics are safer and cheaper than steroids," he said, referring to the immunosuppressive drugs which are now the main treatment for M.S.

Recovery Act Help End Hunger in Horn of Africa

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On March 14 a massive campaign to prevent 21 million people from starvation in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia was launched by the Bread for the World.

The campaign seeks to end the continuing cycle of war and hunger through passage of the Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act of 1991, H.R. 1454, introduced by Rep. Alan Wheat (D-Mo.) and Rep. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.).

Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.) was among six co-sponsors who are ranking members of the House Select Committee on Hunger and the Africa Subcommittee.

The bill has already been supported by congresspersons of both parties. In the House it must pass through the Banking Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, both of which include Congressman Bereuter. The Foreign Affairs Committee considers meas-

ures which affect bilateral aid and food aid. The Banking Committee will hear sections dealing with multilateral institutions (the World Bank and the Africa Development Bank) requiring that U.S. votes in these institutions direct money to meet basic human needs.

A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate after Easter. Both houses must pass the legislation.

Carol Lawrence of Bereuter's office said that the congressman could be expected to support the bill and has been helpful in gaining its bipartisan support.

The Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act calls on the United States to promote peace and development in the Horn region in three ways: providing effective emergency aid to civilians in government -- and opposition -- held areas; increasing development assistance to grassroots organizations; and mobilizing international pressure

for peace in the Horn of Africa.

The bill also focuses on the critical role of grassroots groups in the peace process and supports U.S. military and economic aid restrictions to Horn governments until steps toward peace are taken.

Most of the information in the preceding article was taken from a press release from Bread for the World, a Washington based anti-hunger organization.

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Working Conditions Rugged for Monfort Packers in Grand Island from page 1

make the logs available to Nelson upon request, the commission said. Monfort's assertions that the request was invalid because it was a "union request" and that providing the logs would violate the National Labor Relations Act were unreasonable, the commission held. Monfort's claim that the regulation violated its Fourth Amendment privacy interest was an afterthought, the commission noted."

Working Conditions

What is it like to work in a packing plant? While the job has never been on anyone's glamour list, industry changes in the last decade have reportedly made conditions worse. Vertical integration of the packing industry has resulted in three corporate giants, IBP, ConAgra, and Excel, controlling most of the market, and succumbing to intense pressures of competition and cost-cutting. In the '60s when IBP initiated the practice of shipping out "boxed beef" the others soon followed. Boxed beef is the product of beef packing plants which now do much more to the carcass than they had before. Instead of shipping out whole carcasses in semi-trailer trucks, they send their customers boxes of loins, shoulders, etc. The result is that workers who had done the work of butchering in smaller shops are left with fewer jobs whereas there is much more work for workers who have to work under the pressures of huge packing plants driven by the most competitive of bottom lines. Talk in the industry of using robots to do some of the tasks has not yet materialized at Monfort.

Another trend of the '80s was an increase in the speed of the lines. Pam Nelson who worked for Monfort between 1981 and 1986 but now is organizing to unionize the plant, recalls the line speed in 1981 as being about 160 head per hour on the kill floor. Now she says the speed on the same kill floor is more than 300 head per hour. "Twenty years ago you never used to hear of carpal tunnel syndrome," she said. Nelson feels that repetitive motion disease comes directly from the increase in line speed. Monfort's Vice President of Public Relations Gene Meakins, however, points out that many things have changed besides line speed, such as number of people on the lines, and the fact that carpal tunnel syndrome was not thought of in years past.

Pay at the Monfort plant starts at \$6.00 per hour and can go as high as \$10.00 per hour, according to Meakins. Nelson doubts that very many workers make the \$10.00 wage. In fact, she believes that approximately 1 percent of the workers make \$8.85 and that is virtually as high as wages get. (Before the '80s packing house workers often made more than \$10 per hour.) Health insurance is provided free for workers, but in order for workers' families to get the insurance they must pay a co-payment. There are three shifts, and beginners often work from 3 to 11 p.m. A week of vacation is allowed after a year, but this

does little good to workers from Mexico who need more than a week to get home to visit relatives. Some who do are told that they will be rehired when they return, but will lose seniority and raises.

The pace of the work is grueling. Workers cannot leave the line without being replaced. There are breaks of 15 minutes after the first two and a half hours, then a half hour for lunch after another two and a half hours. Then it's three more hours.

But workers do not get to relax for the full time of the break, because they have to clean up and take off their protective devices before they leave, and they must return in time to put them back on. One worker said, "if you get a 7 minute cigarette, you're lucky." And, if a worker is injured visits to health service must often be worked in during lunch, unless the injury is visible such as a bleeding cut.

Workers are expected to use the bathroom during breaks and lunch. If this is not possible, they must get the foreman to find someone to fill in; no one can leave the line without being replaced. Meakins insists that people are always available to fill in, but one worker told of the difficulty of finding the foreman, and the lack of cooperation met in finding replacements. One worker told me that it's not uncommon for workers to relieve themselves in their pants.

Workers tell stories of intransigence from their bosses when they are injured. One worker, Francisco Rodriguez testified March 20 before the House Subcommittee on Employment and Housing, chaired by Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), about the events leading up to his firing a year ago. He told the committee the following story.

Rodriguez had worked at the Monfort plant since October 1979 when he began working night shift as a flanker. His task was to skin the fronts of the animals and it required using both arms. During this time his left shoulder started bothering him. Doctors were later to call it tendinitis.

In 1984 he switched to days and a different job, "second butt" which required full use of his right arm, but, he says, "you always use both hands." In 1986 he switched to the splitting saw, where he was to be injured and later fired in a series of events related to his seeking medical care for his injury. By 1989 he had a history of organizing for the union and wearing a union t-shirt.

Rodriguez' shoulder injury occurred in August 1988 when he was working the splitting saw. This saw is operated while the worker is on a suspended bench that starts at the top of the carcass and moves down. Rodriguez says he pointed out to the foreman that the bench he was standing on was cracking, but the foreman insisted that he continue since it was Friday and there were only 40 or 45 cows left to split. Twenty cows later the bench broke with Rodriguez on top of the cycle.

In the next 15 months Rodriguez made six visits to four doctors. Two were company doctors, two private. All of the doctors' recommendations and his own attempts to be assigned to tasks that would not aggravate his condition were met with refusal to cooperate by the general foreman and the supervisor. At first the general foreman and the supervisor doubted that the injury was work related, although the supervisor had seen it happen. According to Rodriguez, the two even claimed that Rodriguez had "gotten in a fight Friday" rather than being injured on the job. Rodriguez was given light duty that ended long before the doctor recommended; he was told to take time off without pay; he was told to sign up for a different (lower paying) job; with very few and very short lived exceptions, the work he was given involved either overhead work, or heavy lifting, or both — just what the doctors forbade.

By then Rodriguez had consulted a private doctor and a specialist in Omaha. One said he would talk to an attorney, and gave Rodriguez a list of acceptable jobs. Rodriguez took the list to work. His supervisor took him off the line and assigned him to train another worker to do his job, which he did even though the training involved using the splitting saw, the very work he was forbidden to do. A month later, after he was put back on the line again he was called in the general foreman's office. "You're fired," said the general foreman. The reason was because he disobeyed medical instructions.

Meakins declined to comment on the Rodriguez case.

(Rodriguez' firing was contested by the union and his job was reinstated by the NLRB.

(In June Rodriguez took Monfort to court. Monfort paid for his surgery, and he received a \$21,000 settlement in Workers Compensation court for ongoing pain.)

Few workers get to work in a comfortable temperature. There is steam rolling off the gut table almost all the time which must be cleaned with a constant spray of hot water. There is a lot of hot water used on the kill floor, which is said to be hotter than any place else. One worker estimated the temperature there to be around 100 degrees in the summer.

After the carcasses leave the kill floor they go to cooler areas. The box room of offal is cold, between 32 and 38. Meakins says the temperature is regulated by the USDA. Boxes of offal go on pallets that go to the freezer. Forklift drivers must go into the freezers to get boxed byproducts to load on trucks, but they do not stay in there for long.

The carcasses then go through the break line where they are cut in half, then in quarters. Then the pieces go to different tables of the fabrication room, which is 32 to 40. In the "fab" room are all the tables where the boxed products are finally trimmed. The tables include the rib table, the loin table, the rough meats table, the strip table, the round line, the

round table, the chuck table, the arm table, the trim table (also known as the upgrade table), the wizard table, and the gel-bone belt. At each table fat and bone is removed. Pieces get smaller. The wizard line cuts the remaining meat off the bones; then the bones go to the gel-bone belt. Everything is used but the moo.

Portions leaving the "fab" room go on a conveyor belt to "pack off," which is on the floor above. Meat gets packaged in plastic shrink wrap and boxes. The boxes go to coolers where the box storage crew puts them on the proper shelves. According to Meakins these boxes weigh about 40 pounds, give or take a few pounds. Nelson describes the boxes as much heavier. "They can weigh 80 to 100 pounds," she says. "Maybe Mr. Meakins should go to work in the plant some time himself," she said. Insiders say this crew gets lots of back injuries. The box shipping crew loads the boxes on semis. Everything in the "fab" room and pack-off is cold except the box room.

Monfort has already initiated its own ergonomics program. Meakins says it was begun in 1988 at all the company's beef and pork plants. Some features of the program include a four week program for new hires intended to strengthen and condition the workers. Meakins says the program has shown some success in that turnover has been reduced among new hires. Also part of the program, the company checks employees quarterly for cumulative trauma. Meakins also describes such innovations made by Monfort as prototype work stations, and improvements in equipment such as different kinds of knives.

But meatpacking is still dangerous work, as data cited in the congressional subcommittee hearing of March 20 revealed. Workers in meat packing are injured at four times the rate of industry in general. To address this problem, OSHA has developed a program of training and education, followed up with enforcement. Comprehensive inspections are also planned, according to Gerard Scannell, assistant secretary for occupational safety and health with the U.S. Department of Labor. In the next 60 days, OSHA will begin conducting four such inspections of meatpacking plants each year for the next three fiscal years with the focus being on the ergonomic hazards. Employer's medical records will be examined, and inspectors will interview employees at work. OSHA then will determine whether tasks performed at a work station present hazards. One OSHA official told me that fines for ergonomics violations would be even larger than those sought for machine safety violations.

University of Iowa Writers Workshop Head Dies

Spirit of Freedom Part of Paul Engle's Legacy

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON -- Except for an Iowa cornfield, a Midwest airport was as fitting a place as any for Paul Engle to die. The 82-year-old writer, teacher and nurturer of literary talent suffered a heart attack at O'Hare Airport on March 22, minutes before a trip to Eastern Europe. The former professor of English at the University of Iowa was to receive the Polish government's Order of Merit -- a type of high honor he has been regularly awarded in other countries whose writers were taught and developed by Engle.

Poles, Chileans, Danes, Gaels, Indonesians, Jamaicans, Kenyans, Botswanans and more than 800 writers from some 80 homelands have come to Iowa City and the International Writing Program that Engle and his wife Hualing co-founded in 1967. A Belgian novelist wrote a thank you letter to the couple after his four months under their care: "There is, for me, now, in my life, something that I call 'l'esprit d'Iowa City': a spirit of freedom, creativity and love. Dear Paul and Hualing, this spirit is your work."

I was a guest in the Engle home twice -- in 1983 for an interview and 1987 for the 20th anniversary of the program. Both times, the poet and essayist, whose ancestors were farm-

ers, shared stories as rich as Iowa's loam. The best were about old students, including Flannery O'Connor, John Irving, Gail Godwin and other Americans he had taught since 1941 when directing the University of Iowa's creative writing workshop.

In the early 1950s, Engle had four poets in Iowa City at the same time: William Stafford, Philip Levine, W.D. Snodgrass and Donald Justice: "I had them all in one class. It was exactly like being a lion in a den of Daniels. It scared the hell out of me. It's a frightening thing to be a teacher and walk into a classroom of absolute brilliance."

Engle's idea about writing -- "a work of art is work" -- carried over to the other labor of his life, fund raising. In the first 15 years of the international program, he harvested more than \$3 million to pay the expenses of his students. He wrote checks as well as poems. "Money raising is a dog's life," he said, "and sometimes I tire of barking at the golden moon."

Grant givers realized that Engle was doing what such groups as the United Nations and Amnesty International only dreamed of. "The International Writing Program," he and his wife wrote in their anthology, "The World Comes to Iowa," is "not like a quiet writer's

conference in the United States where people come to have their manuscripts read, often in a resortlike atmosphere, by lakes, mountains, or in a woods, with no risk save to the ego. To (Iowa City) come the world's horrors, fears, beauties, savagery, even triumphs, all at a level of intensity seldom known in the U.S. The wounded come, scars invisible except in their eyes. For many, writing is not simply a career of words, but a matter of life and death.... One afternoon a writer came into our office and shouted 'This is a great day.' 'Was your book published?' 'No,' he answered, 'This is the first time I walked here without looking back to see if I was followed.'"

Physically, Engle had a hulking 6-foot-2-inch frame, his size as large as his capacity for friendship. With graced energy, he stayed in touch faithfully with those who passed through Iowa City and his benign clutches. He wrote -- on an Olympia manual typewriter -- about a dozen letters to me, each one sparkling in conversational warmth.

He had moments of ire. Last summer, he wrote: "I don't get to Washington anymore, since my term on the National Council for the Arts ended. I follow the recent clamor about the Arts Endowment with fascination. I can't support censorship, but I can regret some of

the absolute crap that has been supported in the name of art. Indeed, it seems to me that the proper question should not be, 'Is this pornography?' but, rather 'Is it really art?' So much seems to me trivial, self-indulgent, adolescent. I think of that dreadful plastic figure of Christ with his feet in a cup of the so-called artist's urine. Someone should stand up and question the whole idea of calling such crap art. I'm not offended except by the bad taste and the vulgarity. Who speaks for the one glorious name of ART?"

If anyone did or could, it was Engle. In "On Creative Writing," one of his 20 books, he wrote: "The simple, often grunt-like puffs of air which we call words must be used by the writer with such skill that they can bring to a reader who cannot even hear whatever tone of voice the writer would give them, a form and sense which will move him. This is by no means as easy as lifting bricks all day or breaking stone."

The backbreaking work of writing clearly, and doing it every time out, was, for Engle, a labor that brought release. It freed him to become a regional writer with a global mission.

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LETTERS

Open Letter to Omaha Environmentalists

by Rick Galusha

The City of Omaha's recent decision to reinstate the blue bag recycling program is a bittersweet victory. I think that most of the readers of *The Nebraska Observer* recognize that Waste Management was not the preferred contractor or that the adopted program was not the preferred program, but do we recognize the victory in at least getting some program started? Omaha's Recycling Effort will be back on the legislative docket in 12 months. That gives Omaha's environmental community 12 months to prepare.

The adoption of Waste Management's services for the City of Omaha indicates where Omaha's environmental community has failed. We have failed to:

- Develop relationships of trust and mutual understanding with the officials that are elected to represent us,

- Since there is no trust or understanding between these elected officials and our grassroots groups we are unable to EDUCATE these elected officials,

- Recognize that what we consider traditional methods to sway opinion and influence votes are just not working,

- To capitalize on the general public's growing awareness of environmental concerns and work that interest in the proper direction. Remember that the general public votes in

our elected officials.

- To reach out to the masses and offer them a vehicle for their personal involvement. One that THEY are willing to utilize in order to make a difference.

As a community we can relish our accomplishments to date, we can use our "superior" knowledge to embarrass the less informed, we can sit back and dream about the way things should be while sitting around and debating issues amongst ourselves, and we can stand on our soapbox and lecture to the choir.

Each group should evaluate its motivations, evaluate the successes that we have had and ask why these were successful. Each group should take time to evaluate the political and free-market environment that we operate and participate in. Each group should make the necessary adjustments in their efforts so that within 12 months we have EDUCATED our elected officials to make the right decision; decisions that we are going to have to learn to live with.

As a participant in Omaha's Environmental Community I appreciate and want to recognize the efforts that each of us makes. However, as the Community works to change things and build bridges I pose the question;

"Is Omaha's Environmental Community just working hard or are we working smart?"

Combatting That 'Republican Herald'

Nebraska Observer:

Love your paper. We need another paper in this city to combat that "Republican Herald"!

They certainly did a great job on covering up the Franklin Credit Union fiasco! I knew the Republican biggies would come out of this smelling like a rose. What a corrupt city and country we live in. Like this war Bush and cronies concocted, but people are so gullible and the "Republicans" control the press. It seems like the press is afraid to print what is happening in our country. We are ruled by "King George."

Gladys Talcott

What Does Walker Think of LB818?

Dear Editor:

I never heard of an editor being put on "probation." This surprises me coming from (Sam Walker) someone you tell me is a free speech advocate for the ACLU.

I wonder what Dr. Walker thinks of LB818 which revises laws regarding union pickets. LB818 if passed will basically end all public demonstrations. I don't know what Nebraskans for Choice expect LB818 to do for them.

Andrew Sullivan

Nebraskans for Peace

Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday

April 12-13, 1991

with

William Sloane Coffin

First United Methodist Church
27232 North 50th Street
Lincoln, NE

\$16 individuals
\$21 families

Mail registration and check to
NFP, Region 1, 129 No. 10th, Suite
426, Lincoln, NE 68508

Computers

can justify the added cost of the Macintosh.

Finding an 'Expert'

And, speaking of sharing resources, that is an excellent way to find the expertise you need to set up a new computer system. Ask another, related organization sympathetic with yours, who set up their system. Or ask members of your group — surely one of them is, or knows, someone with sufficient skills. Another option would be to contact a local computer users group to see if a member would be interested in volunteering. The staff at a computer store should have some contact names and numbers, or look in a local computer publication, or ask at the public library where there is increasingly a librarian who specializes in personal computing.

Computer Helpers

In San Francisco, groups wishing to computerize shouldn't have any problem at all. The CompuMentor Project there is a nonprofit organization which teams up volunteer "mentors" with nonprofit agencies stumped by computer problems. The project is limited to the San Francisco Bay area, but has been sending "starter packets" to groups in other areas interested in setting up a similar operation. CompuMentor affiliate groups are already active in Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Utah, Georgia, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Vancouver, and other areas.

CompuMentor is willing to help establish mentor programs in other areas, so if you are interested in sharing your computer knowledge, contact them for more information.

Once you have your computer system up and running, there are a variety of sources and resources available to you.

Networking

Computer networks allow you to tap di-

rectly into the power of one or more other computers — often a powerful, large mainframe system. Networks can range from small computer Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) allowing you to access anything from a hobbyist's Commodore 64, to international networks which link the mainframes and supercomputers of universities, government and corporations.

Most networks fall somewhere between those extremes.

The advantage of networks is the obvious one of being able to tap into the power of much more powerful computers, and the ability to communicate instantly with other computer users.

One of the best known consumer-oriented networks is CompuServe, which offers dozens of services including electronic mail, computer information, an electronic encyclopedia, and the ability to do fairly complete searches of newspapers, magazines and electronic databases. The service also offers a wide variety of "Forums," or special interest groups, where information is shared on topics ranging from cooking, to gardening, to disabilities, to the environment, to human sexuality, to games.

The CompuServe advantage is relative ease of use, relatively low cost, and the ability to get a little bit of everything with just one sign-up fee.

There are also a number of computer networks and groups for specific interests:

For Progressive Activism

PeaceNet is a computer network run by the non-profit Institute for Global Communications. The network connects thousands of activists world-wide to gather and share information on peace, social justice, human rights, Central America, environmental protection, and dozens of other topics. A number

of major groups (including Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, Christic Institute, and Physicians for Social Responsibility) post news on PeaceNet.

The network offers electronic mail, news bulletins, databases, and conferences — a sort of electronic meeting room.

The advantage of the system is that it can react immediately to changes. Within hours of the war in the mideast, there were dozens of conferences related to that topic.

There is a \$15 sign-up fee for PeaceNet and a \$10 per month subscription fee which includes one hour of off-peak time (6 p.m.-7 a.m. weekdays and all day weekends). Addition time is \$5/hour off-peak and \$10/hour peak.

For Senior Citizens

SeniorNet is a national, nonprofit organization for older persons interested in computer technology.

The organization began as a research project of Dr. Mary Furlong at the University of San Francisco, and started teaching computer skills to seniors in 1986 with a grant from the Markle Foundation. A \$25 annual membership includes a quarterly newsletter, Dr. Furlong's book "Computers for Kids Over Sixty" and, for an additional \$15 setup fee, access to the national SeniorNet computer network which charges \$5.70 per hour for non-prime access, \$14.70 per hour for prime access. The system offers live on-line conferencing.

SeniorNet provides hands-on training for seniors at 35 centers nationwide.

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility

As with any other powerful technology, the computer's ability to do good is tempered by its ability to do evil.

The far right has used computer power

brilliantly to build its mailing lists and to raise funds. If corporations, banks, credit bureaus and government agencies merged their databases, the resulting picture of your private life would be virtually complete — and the possible abuses of this information virtually limitless.

And our increasing reliance on computers for every aspect of daily life — from checking out a library book to national defense — means that new questions and concerns about the impact of computers are raised daily.

To make sure these questions are raised, and perhaps answered, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR) was formed.

The group has tackled such issues as the implications of computerization of defense systems, debunking some of the claims made for the "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative, promoted responsible use of computers in the workplace, and working to outlaw the combining of databases which would create a de facto national information bank on U.S. citizens.

Resources:

CompuMentor	The Parlor BBS
385 8th Street, 2nd Floor	Omaha, NE
San Francisco CA 94103	connect with computer at 300-1200 baud, 8-1-N
(415) 255-6040	PeaceNet
CompuServe	3228 Sacramento Street
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P.O. Box 717	San Francisco, CA 94118
Palo Alto, CA 94301	(415) 750-5030
(415) 322-3778	

OSHA Penalties

Continued from page 1

said evidence shows that the hide fleshing machine which Skala was cleaning was not properly locked out or tagged out. He said the Omaha OSHA office conducted the investigation of Monfort last year from Oct. 1 to Dec. 14.

OSHA cited Monfort for 57 alleged violations of machine guarding standards with each instance carrying a proposed fine of \$10,000, for a total of \$570,000. OSHA also alleged 12 instances of unguarded sprocket chains with proposed fines of \$8,000 each, for a total of \$96,000.

Monfort was cited for 18 violations -- at \$10,000 per violation -- where procedures for lock-out allegedly were not utilized, a total of \$180,000. Also, 18 instances of lack of training on lockout/tagout procedures were cited at \$10,000 each, a total of \$180,000.

"An employer's commitment to worker safety and health finally plays out on the shop floor," Phillips said in the press release. "Inadequate programs, lack of machine guard-

ing and superficial training translates into worker injuries and deaths. The day-to-day actions necessary to prevent those occurrences ultimately lie with the employer."

The alleged willful violations include a proposed \$10,000 fine for not providing new equipment with energy isolating devices designed to accept lockout devices and \$10,000 for having an unguarded mechanical power transmission system.

Machine Operation

The citations report that 41 employees who work in and around defleshing machines were exposed to the inrunning nip points, points of operation and rotating parts of the defleshing machine because the machine was not provided with a two-man closing control, a feed roll lower guard, two emergency stop switches, and the rollers were not protected by any type of guard or shield. Exposure to this hazard is capable of producing fatal injuries such as occurred on Oct. 1, 1990, or tissue amputation such as occurred on June 14,

1989, involving the right hand of Paul Salpas of Grand Island.

On April 6, 1989, Monfort employee Lyle Hill was permitted to do maintenance work on a roller conveyor that was not secured from unexpected start-up, causing his death, according to a statement by his wife, Norma Hill of Grand Island, and a previous citation. OSHA fined Monfort \$1,000 for that incident.

Willful violations are those committed with an intentional disregard of or plain indifference to the requirements of the OSHA Act and regulations.

A serious violation is defined by OSHA as one in which there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result and the employer knew or should have known of the hazard.

Monfort has 15 working days to contest the citations and proposed penalties before the Independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Bare said the \$1.09 million fine against

Monfort is certainly not the largest fine that OSHA has imposed on a company.

"The point here is... that Monfort had 107 willful violations that indicate the employer knew about the standard requirements... and didn't comply," Bare said. Monfort had adequate information on the standards, Bare said.

Steve Carmichael, assistant regional administrator for OSHA federal and state operations out of Kansas City, Mo., said the citations issued against Monfort Wednesday had nothing to do with the testimony by Monfort workers before a House subcommittee in Washington, D.C. on March 20.

"This inspection began long before that," he said. "There's no connection at all."

Carmichael said monfort was not singled out for the fines on the lockout/tagout standards, but the fatality last fall involved these standards.

"We're trying to make it clear to everyone that they have an obligation to have lockout/tagout procedures in place" to prevent injuries and deaths in the industry, he said.

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a r t e x h i b i t s

2nd Annual Earth Day Art Show

The Second Annual Earth Day Art Show has been announced by Isabel Cohen of Recycle Omaha. The show will be held at the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 18th & Farnam, from April 22 through May 24.

Artists interested in participating should respond by April 7 to Cohen (291-5301 weekdays; 345-5387 evenings and weekends) or Bev Traub, chairman of Recycle Omaha at 554-6444 (KIOS).

All artwork must be either three-dimensional standing or hanging. Materials must be limited to found objects or recycled goods of every kind. Nothing on stretched canvas will be acceptable, nor will the use of store-bought artists' materials.

Cultural Arts Together

Art Classes

Art classes for adults and children are being offered by Cultural Arts Together (CAT), at the Bemis Foundation's Alternative Worksite, 616 S. 11th St.

The classes, which begin the week of April 1 and run seven weeks, cost \$35 for non-members of CAT, and \$28 for members.

Adult classes include: Nature as a Source of Inspiration; Intermediate Photography/Darkroom; Painting/Open Studio; Ceramic Sculpture; Alternatives in Watercolor and Functional Ceramics.

Children's classes include: Kid's Creations; Shadows and Impressions; Decorative Sculpture; Kids' Sampler; Totems and Spirits; Kids' Clay; Artful Concoctions; and Kids' Drawing and Painting. There are various age limits on the children's classes.

Call 341-0537 for more information and registration details.

Gallery Listings

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha
341-8077

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha
342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon - 5.

April 6: Opening for April show, 5-8 p.m.
April 3-28: Sally Dryer, sculpture; Grace McMillan, monotypes; Bill Steavenson, mixed media; Zenaide, woodcuts and collage.
Call for current information, as the gallery is facing pending demolition to make room for the Old Market parking garage. Relocation plans are not yet firm.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue
293-3732
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.
Through March 29: "5th Annual Metro Seniors Juried Art Show."

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha
341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.
Through April 16: New Work by Mary Beth Fogarty
April 18-May 7: New Work by Peter Coe & Michael Whitehead

April 18: Bemis Slide Lecture Series, 7 p.m., speaker to be announced.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha
280-2509
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
Through April 12: Faculty Show. Recent works by faculty members including Littleton Alston (relief sculpture and drawing); Bob Bosco (painting); Don Doll (photographs); Susan Horn (photographs); Jerry Horning (ceramics); John Thein (painting/drawing and glass sculpture); and Maggie Tobin (painting).
April 17 - April 28: Spring BFA Thesis Show

Eyesound Gallery

105 N. 50th
556-4432
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Sat.
Mixed media featuring work by John Thein, Kent Bellows, Paul Otero, Sue Knight and Dan Boylan.

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha
345-3347

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.
341-1877

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln
475-5421
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln
475-1061
Hours: 10-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
April 7: Opening for Benton and Brown, 2-4 p.m.
April 7-26: Linda Benton, drawings and Jim Brown, stoneware.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha
399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs
325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha
342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.
Through August 11: "Oscar Howe: Traditionalist/Modernist," features a range of realist to abstract work by the Artist Laureate of South Dakota.
Through May 19: "Ralph Eugene Meatyard (1925-1972)," 35 works showing Meatyard's theatrical and often macabre scenes.
Through August 11: "Works on Paper: Artists of the 60s, 70s and 80s."
Through August 11: "Old Master Prints and

Drawings."

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 So. 16th Street
341-7910
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment.

Passageway Gallery

417 So. 11th, Omaha
341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.
April 6: Opening for April Show, 7-10 p.m.
April 1-30: Jackie Eihausen, paintings; Sue Gingrich, paintings; Deb McColley, jewelry.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha
551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln
472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th Street (second floor in CAT)
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday
Through March 8: "Vignettes," photographs by Nicolette Bromberg; sculpture by Ronald Gonzalez; paintings by David Higgins; and drawings by Mark Westervelt.
Through April 12: UNO Art Student Exhibition.
April 19: 7:30-9 p.m., opening reception for B.F.A. Thesis Exhibition.
April 19-May 10: B.F.A. Thesis Exhibition.

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Ill.
(312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30 -4:30 Mon., W, Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.
Continuing: "The Art of Music: A Salute to the Centennial Season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra."
Through June 23: "Selections from the Permanent Collection of Asian Art."
Through April 21: "New Acquisitions: Modernist Photography."

Through March 31: "Coverlets and Quilts."

Through June 9: "A Distanced Land: The Photographs of John Pfahl," about 100 photos from the artist's nine series that critically explore man's alteration of the American landscape: "Altered Landscapes," "Picture Windows," "Video Landscapes," "Power Places," "Submerged Petroglyphs," "Missile/Glyphs," "Arcadia Revisited," "Waterfalls," and "Smoke."

Through May 12: "High and Low: Modern Art and Popular Culture," This in-depth survey features over 350 items from an arena of visual art that Robert Rauschenberg named "the gap between art and life" — the exchange between modern art and popular, commercial culture. This dialogue, which began during the pre-World War I era in Paris, has been crucial to the modern visual experience, including product and package design, comic strips, advertising and museum masterpieces. This came to a turning point with Pop Art in the '60s, when "low art" (graphic art) was turned into "high art" (shown in galleries and museums).

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa
(515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum

4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$4 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through April 21: "Walker Evans: American Photographs."
Through May 26: "South Asian Textiles from the Permanent Collection: Kashmiri Shawls."

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie
Chicago, IL
(312) 440-1860
Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings.
"The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

Walker Gallery

Vineland Place
Minneapolis, Minn.
(612) 375-7622
(612) 375-7636 Recording
Tue-Sat, 10-8; Sun 11-5.
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.
Continuing: "The Legacy of surrealism," and Selections from the Permanent Collection.
April 21-June 23: "Edge of a City," an installation by Steven Holl, part of the Architecture Tomorrow series.
Through April 28: Work by John Baldessari on loan from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Calendar Item Announcement? Call John Boyd, 341-9313

or send to: Boldface Publishing, Inc.

P.O. Box 3685 / Omaha, NE 68103

a r e a e v e n t s

Note: Information was current as of press time, but changes may occur. Call for updates.

DIRECTORY OF VENUES:

Ak-Sar-Ben, 63rd & Center streets.

Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-7332.

Bellevue Little Theater, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.

Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11th St., 341-7130. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Bluffs Run Greyhound Race Track, I-80 & I-29 interchange in Council Bluffs, Iowa. 323-2500.

Center Stage Theater, 30th & Q streets, 733-5777.

Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30th & Burt streets; Art Gallery, 27th & California streets, 280-2509.

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.

Firehouse Dinner and Theatre, 11th & Jackson streets, 346-8833.

Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th St., 391-7888.

Henry Doorly Zoo, 10th & Deer Park Blvd., 733-8400.

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300. Open Sun 1-5 p.m., closed Mon, Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thur 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Magic Theatre, 1417 Farnam, 346-1227.

New Cinema, 1514 Davenport St., 346-8033. Screens film most weekends at 5:20, 7:30 & 9:40 Fri & Sat; Sun at 3 p.m.

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Omaha Childrens Museum, 500 S. 20th, 342-6164. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass streets, 553-0800.

Omaha Lancers, professional hockey, 556-7825.

Omaha Racers, professional basketball, 551-5151.

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560.

Opera/Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.

Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16th St., 444-4750.

Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St.

Rosenblatt Stadium, 13th & Bert Murphy Drive, 734-2550.

Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R streets in Lincoln. 472-5353.

Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO Campus 63rd & Dodge.

Sunset Speedway, 114th & State, 493-5271.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, 63th & Dodge streets.

Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th St., 344-7777.

Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Continuing: Bluffs Run Greyhound Race Track. Racing starts at 7:15 p.m. Tue-Sun with matinee racing at 3:15 p.m. Wed and 1:30 p.m. Sat & Sun.

April 2-7: Omaha Home Show at the Civic Auditorium.

April 10-14: Tangier Shrine Circus at the Civic Auditorium. Wed & Thur at 7:30 p.m.; Fri at 4:30 & 8 p.m.; Sat at 10 a.m., 2 & 8 p.m.; and Sun at 1 & 4:30 p.m.

April 13-May 13: Designer Showhouse presented by the Omaha Symphony Guild at the old Columbian School, 38th & Jones Street.

April 20: Impact 0.6 Game Fest at the Holiday Inn Central, 72nd & Grover streets, 8 a.m.-midnight.

April 21: Earth Day Omaha at the Central Park Mall, 14th & Douglas. Events begin at noon, free.

April 25-28: Llama Show & Sale at Ak-Sar-Ben.

April 27&28: Franchise & Business Opportunity Show at the Civic Auditorium.

FILM

April 4-6: "Bye Bye Blues," a 1989 Canadian film by Anne Wheeler at Sheldon Film Theater. Screenings at 7 & 9:15 daily with matinees 12:45 & 3 p.m. Sat; 2:30 & 4:45 Sun. No matinees on April 6.

April 7: "Twilight of the Cockroaches," a 1987 Japanese film by Hiroaki Yoshida at the Sheldon Film Theater: 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

April 5-7: "Seven Women, Seven Sins." Seven female directors interpret the seven deadly sins in this 1988 film at the New Cinema.

April 11-14: "Life and Nothing But," a 1989 French film by Bertrand Tavernier at Sheldon Film Theater. Screens at 7 & 9:30 p.m. nightly with matinees Sat at 12:30 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 2 & 4:30 p.m.

April 14: "Salaam Bombay!" at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2 & 4:30 p.m.

April 21: "Details of a Duel," a 1988 Colombian film by Sergio Cabrera at Sheldon Film Theater: 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

April 25-28 & May 2-5: "Cyrano De Bergerac," a 1990 French film by Jean-Paul Rappeneau starring Gerard Depardieu at the Sheldon Film Theater nightly at 7 & 9:30 p.m. with matinees 12:30 & 3 p.m. Sat; 2 & 4:30 p.m. Sun.

MUSIC & DANCE

April 3, 5&7: "The Magic Flute" by Opera/Omaha. Wed 7:30 p.m.; Fri 8 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.

April 7: Bagels & Bach with the Omaha Symphony Brass Quintet at the Joslyn Art Museum. Brunch at 10:30 a.m., concert at 11:15. General admission \$6.

April 10: Jian Wang, cello solo, at the Joslyn Art Museum, 11 a.m.

April 12&13: Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra Concert with pianist Jose Carols Cocarelli. On April 12, 2 p.m. at Joslyn Art Museum; on April 13, 7 p.m. at UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center.

April 18-21: "A Company of Dancers" recital by Creighton University Dance Company, 8 p.m. Thu-Sat; 2:30 p.m. on Sun at Creighton Performing Arts Center.

April 18&20: "Spring Fling" classical concert by the Omaha Symphony, 8 p.m. at the Orpheum.

April 21: "Notes from Vienna," a musical tribute to Schubert, Brahms, Bruckner and Mozart. At 3 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 36th & Harney.

April 23: Singer James Morris, presented by the Tuesday Musical Concert Series at Joslyn Art Museum, 8 p.m.

April 26&27: "The Old and the New" by Ballet Omaha at the Orpheum Theater, 8 p.m.

SPORTS

The Omaha Royals play professional baseball at Rosenblatt Stadium. Home games are:

April 18 & 19 vs. Nashville at 7:05 p.m.; **April 20** at 6:05 p.m. & **April 21** at 2:02 p.m. vs. Louisville; **May 1-3** vs. Iowa at 7:05 p.m.; **May 4** at 6:05 p.m., **May 5** at 2:05 p.m. & **May 6** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Denver; **May 7** vs. Oklahoma City at 7:05 p.m.; **May 9** vs. The Kansas City Royals at 7:05 p.m.

April 4-6: Tier II Peeewe Hockey Tournament at Hitchcock Park Arena, 5025 S. 45th Street.

THEATER

April 2-May 5: "Other People's Money" at the Firehouse Dinner and Theatre.

April 4-May 5: "Sophisticated Ladies" at the Omaha Community Playhouse; Thu-Sat 8 p.m. & Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m.

April 5,6,12,13: "Heads" at the Magic Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

April 5-28: "Oil City Symphony" at the Center Stage, 8 p.m. Fri & Sat; 3 p.m. Sun.

April 12-21: "Ten Little Indians" at the Bellevue Little Theater, Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

April 12-May 26: "Curious George" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater. Fri 7 p.m.; Sat & Sun 2 p.m.

April 19-May 11: "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Tue-Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m.

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What to Do While Waiting For a *Real* Recycling Plan

by Tom Foster

The Blue Bag Program is back and the no-name recycling group has the blues. Omaha will have to wait until November before a real recycling plan can be considered. Then the debate will resume for the contract to be let next winter. The only concession gained by the environmentalists is Waste Management's promise to set up four drop-off sites somewhere in the city.

For that meager opportunity to see glass and paper collected without damage or contamination we will still have to pester the City Council to make it happen.

But what happens to the materials delivered to the drop-off sites? Will they be marketed locally or mixed with the materials at the transfer station and be shipped out of our community? Some "recyclers" put their material on barges and sent it to Japan. Newspaper from the transfer station at 6th and Seward has been rejected in the past by insulation companies in Fremont and Norfolk. In either case the goals of recycling would be defeated; less reduction of waste would occur and more fossil fuel would be used.

What To Do Now

There are several things to be accomplished between now and the renewal of the battle for real recycling next fall. First and foremost, the election of a city council sympathetic to environmental issues. In District 2 Fred Conley opposes the Blue Bag Program and feels recyclables should be kept separate

from the regular garbage.

In District 4 Jack Bober prefers separate curbside collection of recyclables or drop-off sites.

In District 6, Anne Boyle was "disappointed that a very successful newspaper collection program was dismantled." Seeing how few used the blue bags recently, she commented that we have a long way to go. Her opponent Lee Terry is a supporter of the blue bag plan.

Legislation

Two important bills are now stuck in the Natural Resources Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. LB613, the Beverage Containers Deposit and Recycling Act, could be advanced if enough citizens would contact Sens. Rod Johnson, Chris Beutler, Loren Schmit, Paul Hartnett, and Tom Horgan. This would solve much of Omaha's recycling problem. It would recycle much of rural Nebraska's garbage (smaller communities will probably never have curbside programs). Reusable bottles should be put back into service; reuse is far superior to recycling.

Eleven other states have bottle bills and they achieve 80 percent recovery of the targeted receptacles. This is better compliance than we can expect with a recycling program because it coerces everyone, not just the tree-huggers, to recycle.

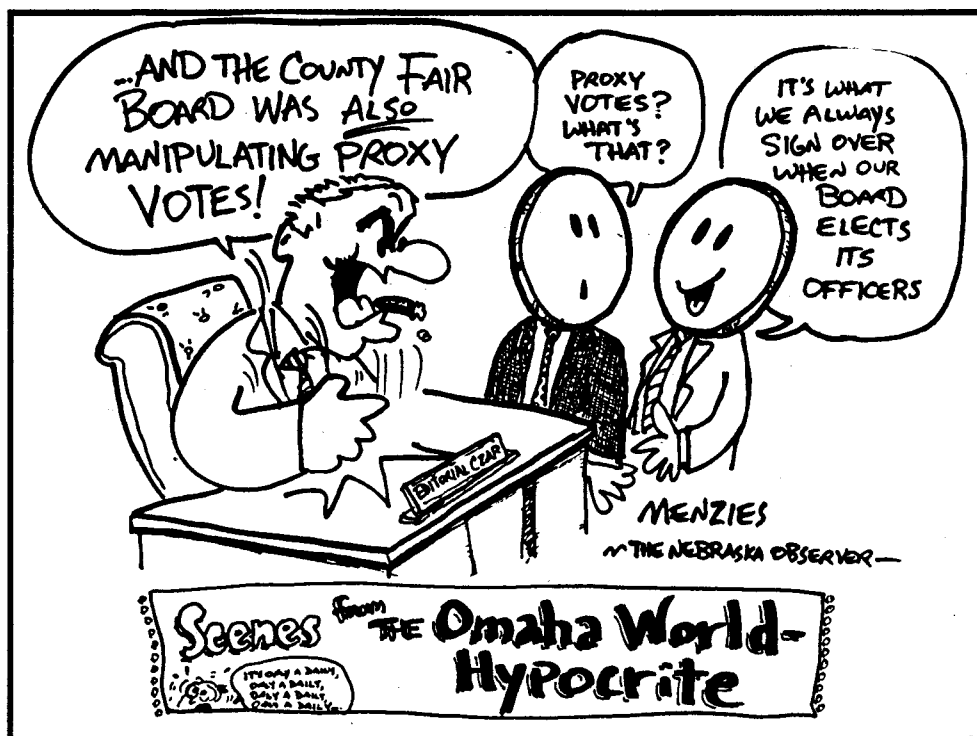
The other bill stuck in the N.R. Committee, LB 576, would prevent utility companies from building new power plants. Unless a utility can demonstrate a genuinely effective conservation program that actually reduces the consumption of energy the utility is prohibited from building new power plants.

Conservation of energy and resources is crucial, and that is what recycling accomplishes. Recycling aluminum uses 95 percent less energy than producing aluminum from raw materials. Recycling paper uses 60 percent less energy than manufacturing paper from virgin timber. Recycling a glass jar saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

Recycling is, after all, ultimately about energy.

Ride Your Bike to Earth Day Festivities, April 21

Last year, over 15,000 people participated in Omaha's celebration of Earth Day. Professional musicians played inspired, inspiring music while thousands listened. An environmental fair displayed a virtual banquet of information that rivaled some libraries. A bike ride from the zoo to the Mall encouraged Omahans to leave their cars at home. At Memorial Park, a rendition of the recycling logo was created from recyclable material under the direction of UNO Art Gallery Director Nancy Kelly.



How to Be an Obstructionist

TF

A city councilman who shall remain unnamed, but whose initials are "J.C." recently labeled the 45 Omahans who spoke against the Blue Bag Program "obstructionists." He obviously doesn't realize what we're trying to do: obstruct the destruction of the human species.

But, hey, no hard feelings, J.C. The no-name recycling group plans to market a special permit just because of people like you. It is a "Permit to Obstruct," and it will debut at Earth Day.

That's right, friends and neighbors, for \$1 you too can obstruct senseless waste and recycling experiments at next November's recycling debate! Elderly ecoterrorists will notify you by phone of upcoming scams in time for you to witness the hanky-panky in person.

Pester your councilman for the promised drop-off sites. Then ask them how much glass, paper, etc., has been recycled by Waste Management to date. Ask for the data to be mailed to your home.

Then inquire about the lecturer and recycling expert Neil Seldman of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the group that focuses on creating jobs and local development as well as recycling. When will Mr. Seldman address the city council?

Don't wait for Earth Day to become an obstructionist! You can join up with a dedicated flock of Omahans who sincerely want what is best for our community by calling Dorothy Lanphier 554-1108 or by attending the weekly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 34th and Farnam, 10 a.m. every Saturday.

In the meantime, use the blue bags if you can't get your glass and newspapers to Hy-Vee and Pepsi. When hauling non-recyclables to the landfill always take your camera. Photograph any blue bags being buried. Then contact your neighborly "obstructionist" (455-5836) or this newspaper. You too can be a photo journalist or photo obstructionist. Call J.C. for proper terminology.



some of the nationally known Kinetic Sculpture race vehicles. Bike racks will be provided at the Central Park kMall so you can walk around and enjoy the festivities. Parade participants are asked to come in costume depicting environmental themes and a Queen of Recycling will be crowned at 11 A.m. who will then lead the procession to the Mall. Carpool, cycle or call Metro Area Transit for Sunday's bus schedule to get to the Central Park Mall. For more information call 346-1254 or contact your local quality bike shop.